

Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary Fiscal Year 2003

The Work of Nevada's Courts
July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003



SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

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A Message from the Chief Justice

The courts of the State of Nevada at every level, from the simplest Justices' Court in Austin, to the busiest urban District Court in Las Vegas, are busy and productive laboratories of experimentation – courts working to do more with less – to provide justice for all. I am pleased to present the fourth annual report of the Nevada Judiciary, which continues to tell the story of our dynamic judicial system in the fastest growing state of our great nation. I only wish time and space permitted a report which fully describes all the accomplishments of the pro-active and innovative courts of Nevada.

Briefly, I want to highlight some aspects of the report that may be of general interest to the citizens of Nevada.

Our District Courts across the state report an average seven percent increase in case filings and a nine percent increase in case dispositions. These courts continue to search for the best methods to deal with the increased demands imposed upon them. In the Eighth Judicial District, where complicated construction defect cases have threatened to overwhelm the entire system, three judges have set out to specially handle these cases. Clark County has created a special courtroom location and center to deal with the unique demands placed upon the traditional courtroom design. The Second Judicial District's revisions to its active case management system, along with its rugged policy against unnecessary trial continuances, has resulted in a caseload that is closely managed by the judges and consequently current and up to date. The Drug Courts of the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts and the newer rural Drug Court serving Churchill and Lyon Counties as well as the Carson City area continue the work of addressing addiction in the criminal population. Through the Drug Courts, defendants receive professional treatment and address the various problems confronting the addicted offender, all in an effort to break the cycle of addiction and associated criminal activity. Through the efforts of the judges and staff of these therapeutic courts many offenders have been returned to society as productive and contributing members.

The Family Courts in the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts continue to emphasize mediation for all parties and special assistance for the parties who cannot afford counsel but who need to access these busy courts. The Eighth's self-help center is a bee-hive of activity where individuals in need of the assistance can obtain forms to help in such matters as domestic violence, child custody, support and visitation.

The Justices' Courts and Municipal Courts are often called the peoples' courts. This is because most of us will appear in one or the other for traffic tickets, and in Justices' Court for small claims and landlord-tenant disputes. These historically busy courts are busier than ever. The Justices' Courts documented an average three percent increase in filings and a similar increase in dispositions. The Municipal Courts reported an almost five percent increase in filings and a similar increase in dispositions.

The Supreme Court Justices continue to successfully whittle away at a previously record high backlog. In fact, with the understanding that most of the cases awaiting decision are in the pipeline either because briefing by the lawyers has not been completed or because the case is awaiting oral argument or because the draft decision is not complete, the "backlog" as it was once understood to exist, is gone.

The 2003 Legislature passed several bills that affect Nevada's judiciary directly and indirectly during the next biennium. A few of the changes most likely to affect those who access the courts are as follows:

- Administrative Assessments for misdemeanors were increased help fund specialty courts around the state; the general fund contribution to specialty courts was cut to zero.
- A multi-party surcharge has been instituted in the District Court with the proceeds dedicated to support court technology at the state and local levels.
- The jurisdictional limit for filing a civil action in the Justices' Courts will be increased to \$10,000 commencing in 2005.

In looking toward the future of all the courts of Nevada, in 2003 I convened a commission to study how the various courts in Nevada are funded. Such a study has never before been undertaken, and we hope to learn much and benefit much from the information that we gain. Many citizens do not realize that in this state every Justices' Court and District Court is funded by the county where it is located and every Municipal Court is funded by the city it serves. Consequently, we see a great variation in the levels of service by the courts, commensurate with the level of their funding. By studying the funding levels and service levels of every court in this state, we will be better able to judge the overall health of all the courts of Nevada as we look for ways to ensure that access to justice in every court is not denied. Furthermore, we must be sure that every court is properly equipped to and can afford to carry out the judicial tasks and mandates required of them.

In closing let me add that I am proud to serve Nevada as a member of the Supreme Court, and I am proud of Nevada's judges at every level who perform countless hours of hard work serving the cause of justice in this state. Through their efforts we have courts that are productive, proactive and constantly striving to improve the effective delivery of justice to the citizens of Nevada. Our courts are surely among the best this country has.

Deborah A. Agosti
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Nevada

Report from the Administrative Office of the Courts



This is our fourth Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary. This report contains caseload information for all Nevada courts – the Supreme Court, District Courts, Justice Courts, and Municipal Courts. The courts of our state remain busy forums of dispute resolution with case filings for District Courts increasing and case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts virtually unchanged.

As one of only 11 states without an intermediate appellate court, we continue to offer a comparison of the Nevada Supreme Court to other appellate courts with similar characteristics. In addition to cases filed in each trial court in the state, the number of cases disposed are included. Along with dispositions, we have collected information concerning what we call “quasi judicial positions.” These are positions that help with cases but with limited authority and their findings are reviewed by an elected judge. This additional information enables us to account for all resources available to the courts for the processing of their ever increasing caseload.

This year we have expanded our reporting of caseloads for Drug Courts. During fiscal year 2003, our Drug Courts had more than 750 graduates. With national recidivism rates for Drug Court participants at about 20 percent, we can expect that approximately 600 of those graduates will become productive, contributing members in our society. Also new for this year is a brief comparison of Nevada general jurisdiction courts to others in the western United States.

The reporting of case statistics has not been easy for our courts, but they are making an exceptional effort to count case filings and dispositions. The automated systems in most courts are record keeping systems and are not designed to report the type of information now required by the Supreme Court and the Uniform System for Judicial Records statistical reporting requirements. Thus, many courts are forced to count their statistics by hand. Manual counting negatively impacts the accuracy and completeness of court statistics and you will see several areas where this is reflected in our report.

New case management systems are now being implemented across the state which will improve our courts’ capability to report court statistics. One such project is the Nevada Rural Courts System where more than 30 rural courts are collaborating on a single case management system; the Clark County Justice Courts are also installing this same system. Several Municipal Courts in Clark County are also acquiring new case management systems. The Administrative Office of the Courts is actively participating in these projects.

The data offered in this report will become increasingly significant as the Nevada judiciary continues to provide equal access to equal justice. All citizens of this state, including those in rural areas, must have access to justice. Over time, the data in these annual reports will assist the courts in determining the resources required whether it be judicial positions, support staff, or office space and courtrooms. Information about courts is key for improved court administration and is key for our courts to meet the needs of Nevada citizens and the increasing expectations of state and local governments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Titus". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Ron Titus
State Court Administrator
Supreme Court of Nevada

State of the Judiciary Message

Presented By Chief Justice Deborah Agosti to the Legislature of Nevada, Seventy-Second Session, February 26, 2003

Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker pro Tempore, Attorney General Sandoval, Controller Augustine, Treasurer Krolicki, Chief Secretary of State Parker, my colleagues at the Supreme Court of Nevada, colleagues, the judges present here tonight from all levels of the courts of Nevada, invited guests and friends, good afternoon. My name is Deborah Agosti. I am here today on behalf of the Supreme Court of Nevada. Just a few short weeks ago I assumed the duties of Chief Justice and so it is my privilege and my responsibility to speak to you today about the state of Nevada's Judiciary. I particularly want to thank you for permitting me this opportunity to inform you of some of the major substantive developments within the Judicial Branch of government in Nevada.

I would like to introduce my colleagues who are here with me today: Justice Robert Rose, Justice Bill Maupin, Justice Myron E. Leavitt, Justice Nancy Becker, and our most recently invested colleague, Justice Mark Gibbons. Also present is the President of the Nevada Judges Association (NJA), Judge Dan Ward,

Justice of the Peace in New River Township, Fallon. The NJA's membership includes Nevada's justices of the peace and municipal court judges and he is here tonight representing that organization. Judge Jim Hardesty, vice-president of the Nevada District Judges Association, is standing in for President Dan Papez who lives in Ely and was unable to be here. There are many judges here today from all levels of the courts in Nevada. They are eager to meet with you, the legislators, at the reception following my remarks, to tell you about challenges for them today and the solutions they are attempting. Would the judges please stand.

I've invited a number of guests to be here because of their close association with the courts of Nevada and their contributions to the strength of the judiciary. I would like to introduce the President of the State Bar of Nevada, Gloria Sturman, and Alan Kimbrough, the Executive Director of the State Bar. The bench and the bar have enjoyed an excellent working relationship as we've addressed matters of mutual concern. I would like to introduce the Dean of the Boyd School of Law at UNLV, Richard Morgan. Please join me in congratulating Dean Morgan for accomplishing so much at Boyd Law School in such record-breaking time. We learned just several days ago that the school has been awarded full accreditation by the American Bar Association. That is a credit not only to Dean Morgan, his students, and his faculty, but also to you, the

legislature, and the many interested and involved individuals, across the state, which made the school possible. I also want to introduce to you the President of the National Judicial College, William Dressel. The college, which is situated in Reno, as you know, plays a fundamental role in providing education to all levels of the state court trial judges in the country. The Nevada judiciary has been particularly blessed by its close association with the college and has benefited from the many educational opportunities it presents. This is a special year for the National Judicial College, which is celebrating 40 years of service to judges and to justice. Next, I would like to introduce to you two people who haven't directly contributed anything, not one tin nickel, to the judicial system in Nevada. But they make my day every day. These are two of the finest young men I've ever met, my sons, Anthony and Austen Walsh.

I also wish to acknowledge the presence of our state court administrator, Ron Titus, and our clerk of the Supreme Court, Janette Bloom. Mr. Titus and Ms. Bloom are joined tonight by several members of their very capable staffs. Rather than introduce all the court's personnel to you now, I would instead remind you of the Supreme Court's invitation for all of you to join us after

the conclusion of my remarks for a reception at the Supreme Court building next door. It's a short walk, neighbors! I hope you will have the opportunity there to visit informally with me, the justices, the many judges from across the state that are here this evening, the staff of the court, and the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank my judicial assistant, Jeannette Miller, for all her hard work in connection with this address.

I want to just very briefly tell you a little bit about myself because I realize that for many of you, I am a new face. I have just begun my twenty-first year as a judge, and people have long since stopped calling me "that young lady on the bench." I served for 2 years as a justice of the peace in Reno Township and for 14 years as a judge in the Second Judicial Court in Washoe County. I am in my fifth year of service as a member of the Supreme Court.

We expect much when we speak of justice and the judicial system. We want fairness, equal treatment under the law for all, accessibility regardless of wealth, opportunity to be heard, swift determinations, harmony, and happy endings. Yet when we speak of justice and the judicial system in America, we hear the words overcrowded, unresponsive, expensive, slow, cumbersome, and inaccessible. Albert Einstein described a fundamental law of Physics that applies to modern institutions as well. He said,



State of the Judiciary Message (cont.)

“Nothing happens until something moves.” I am proud to tell you that the Nevada courts are on the move.

In preparation for my report to you today concerning the state of the judiciary, I corresponded with judges at every level: the District Court, the Justices’ Court, the Municipal Court, and I asked the representatives of these courts to describe for me, so I could describe for you, some of the more substantial developments that have taken place in the 2 years that have passed since the last time this address was delivered. The responses I received were so overwhelming that it is literally not possible for me to tell you about all or even a good portion of the programs, experiments, services, projects, and innovations taking place in the courts across Nevada. I have assembled a binder, which contains the many letters I received from the courts. The binder will be at the reception and I invite you to peruse it there. This binder documents a phenomenon that has taken place in the judiciary in Nevada. That is the very real change that have taken place in the way judges think about justice and in the way they view their mission to the communities they serve. That change in thinking is now reflected in the way the courts of this state do business.

From my vantage point, observing the courts on a daily basis from within for over 20 years, I believe the changes in approach and performance by the courts represents a very real and substantive shift in the way we dispense justice in this state. We are witnessing the coming of age within the courts of a new approach which is an active management style with respect to cases; a proactive address of societal problems like poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence; a problem-solving philosophy, and community oriented in nature. No longer is the judicial role limited to dispute resolution through the traditional adversarial mechanism of trial. Our judges no longer perceive their function as solely and slowly to decide the cases that come to them. The courts are now addressing broader societal problems in a systematic way and attempting to improve the delivery of justice and to do their part in partnership with other entities to improve their communities and the delivery of justice. I am so proud to be here today representing a vital, pro-active, socially responsive, problem-solving judiciary, and conscientious men and women who have dedicated themselves and given of themselves for the cause of the improvement of the quality of justice in Nevada. We observe this phenomenon of physics and institutions as described by Einstein, this movement that creates and foments change, in specific, identifiable areas of law. And again, I will describe some

of the highlights, but there is no way I can talk about all the work of all the courts in the time I have.

First, in the area of families and children: this year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of creation of the family court as a specialty area within the district court. It isn’t just about hearing divorce cases anymore. Both the Second Judicial District, Washoe County, and the Eighth Judicial District, Clark County, offer self-help centers where self-represented individuals, primarily indigent persons, can obtain information and reliable forms to assist them in preparing themselves for court in such matters as divorce, custody, visitation, support and domestic violence cases. If you can, I encourage you to visit the Clark County’s self-help center. It is a beehive of constant activity, and it hums.

Washoe County has acquired some grant funds and used the funds to hire for its self-help center a part-time Spanish speaking paralegal to assist Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence. Also, under the domain of the family court jurisdiction, are guardianship proceedings. These can be very difficult cases, where the court wants to protect the ward’s person and property, but may have no way to independently assess whether a guardian’s actions are truly in the ward’s best interests. Washoe County,

this past year, began the Special Advocates for Elders (SAFE) program, which is the first of its kind in the nation. The SAFE program functions much like the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program does in the area of children. SAFE trains and assigns volunteers to assist elderly wards in guardianship cases and to provide the court with valuable information to help guide the court to humane and appropriate decisions affecting the lives of our elderly who as the result of infirmity can no longer make these decisions for themselves.

Both of our state’s large urban courts have instituted specialty Drug Courts within the juvenile and family court systems. In Clark County, the ribbon was cut in 2002, opening Donna’s House, a supervised visitation center and a supervised safe exchange point for parents in conflict. Once again, grant money was sought out to bring about this badly needed pilot program. Donna’s House, by the way, was named for a woman who had worked in the clerk’s office in Clark County. Her daughter witnessed Donna’s violent death, which was the result of domestic violence. We hope Donna’s house will prevent repetition elsewhere in Clark County of that tragedy. Mediation is encouraged and supported in the family courts, and indeed in every District Court that hears family matters in Nevada. Clark County’s Family Mediation Center provided media-



State of the Judiciary Message (cont.)

tion services to well over 3,000 families in the last 2 years. In 2002, 88 percent of the families there successfully mediated their child custody issues. The savings are not just in the time the courts might have spent hearing otherwise contested matters, but in the lives of the children whose parents are learning to resolve their differences in positive, meaningful, and nonadversarial ways.

In the Sixth Judicial District, which encompasses Humboldt, Lander and Pershing Counties, and in the Seventh Judicial District, which encompasses White Pine, Eureka and Lincoln Counties, the courts have focused attention on the prevention of juvenile delinquency. In the Seventh, the Juvenile Diversion Program was launched in 2002 in partnership with Ely State Prison. The program teaches children about choices through a tightly controlled visitation experience at the state prison. And unlike the controversial and ultimately unsuccessful Scared Straight programs of the past, this program is positive in nature, emphasizing responsible decision making.

In the Sixth Judicial District, the court has partnered in Lovelock and Winnemucca with the boards of county commissioners there and the school districts there to actually purchase or build and staff alternative education schools for at-risk youths. And negotiations are underway to do the same in Battle Mountain. Once again, the Sixth Judicial District has searched out grant money to bring these changes to these rural communities. In the Fourth Judicial District, which encompasses Elko County, teen court has been operating very successfully for several years under that court's direction. Elko County's court has also instituted the Divided Family Workshop, at a modest cost to the participants, which again stresses to parents who are in dispute over custody and visitation issues the importance of working together, despite their personal differences. A mental health professional facilitates the workshop and helps the participants to learn communication skills and cooperation strategies.

In the area of criminal law, the courts have forged ahead with highly successful specialty therapeutic court programs. I would like to introduce Judges Archie Blake from the Third Judicial District, which includes Lyon and Churchill Counties, and Peter I. Breen of the Second Judicial District, which is Washoe County. Judge Breen is the longest sitting district judge in the state of Nevada, having taken the bench in January of 1974. I was privileged to work with him for 14 years in Washoe, and I can personally attest that he is the moving force behind Washoe County's highly successful Drug Court and Mental Health Court. Judge Blake, a 15-year veteran of the District Court bench, presides over one of the most important innovative

programs in our judicial system, a regional Drug Court. This very unique Drug Court was created by the rural judges to address drug-driven criminal activities in their jurisdictions while also solving the chronic rural problem of scarce resources by sharing resources among the First, Third and Ninth Judicial Districts, the First being Carson City and Storey County and the Ninth being Douglas County. Again, the Third is Lyon and Churchill Counties. With grant money and with funds authorized by the legislature and the cooperative efforts of the district attorney's, law enforcement, public defenders, and local governmental bodies, offenders are treated in the Western Regional Drug Court at an extraordinarily successful rate. Since September of 2001, 140 offenders have entered the program and only 12 percent have washed out.

In civil law, the courts have searched, studied, experimented and found better ways to actively and successfully manage the growing case loads and the increasingly complex cases. Time doesn't permit me to provide the kind of detail their efforts truly deserve, but I do wish to highlight two significant innovations in Clark County. The first is a new tool to permit parties with cases that are not of substantial monetary value to access the court in a speedy and less expensive way than through the traditional trial process. Called the Short Trial Program,



it uses four-person juries and accelerates the actual trial presentation process with the goal of concluding the case in one day. Uncomplicated cases of modest monetary value are heard by attorneys who preside as pro-tem judges, thereby freeing up valuable time for the District Court. The potential for the short trial program is enormous. In 2002, 47 cases were resolved through trial or settlement in this very new program.

The second innovation, one you can actually touch, walk into and observe, is the Complex Litigation Center, space leased in Clark County and converted for use in extremely complicated multiple party cases, primarily the construction defect cases. This courtroom accommodates up to 50 counsels, along with their clients, and has a public seating gallery of 100. It is done inexpensively. The chairs for the lawyers and the public and counsel tables are all collapsible and movable for maximum flexibility and functionality. If the size of the case is larger, bring in more chairs and more tables. If smaller, move them out. It is wired for visual aids, computer access, PowerPoint, slides, and the like. When I visited the Center with Justice Gibbons, I had the opportunity to watch Judge Alan Earl, an incredibly hard working and competent judge in Clark County, conduct a construction defect case. We didn't mean to interrupt the proceedings, but to my embarrass-

State of the Judiciary Message (cont.)

ment, Judge Earl halted the proceedings and introduced Justice Gibbons and me to the jury and the litigants and the attorneys. The jurors actually expressed to us their satisfaction with the facility.

A combination of programs and policies in Washoe County, including its no-bump (no continuance for little reason) policy of civil cases set for trial, pre-trial conferencing of every case within 60 days of its being filed, comprehensive case settlement mediated by a sitting judge, and the institution of business court has resulted in significant delay reduction and enhanced case disposition there despite a 23+ percentage increase last year in case filings.

All the District Courts and significant numbers of the Justices' and Municipal Courts are using technology to increase their efficiency. The Eighth, Clark County, has very recently implemented an impressive e-filing system for complex litigation cases. Several courts at all levels and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), on behalf of the rural courts, have adopted software known as *CourtView*, which will permit them to communicate electronically with less possibility of error and increase standardization which is always desirable.

The Sparks Justices' Court, in a pilot program, is the first court in the state to actually receive traffic citations from the Washoe County Sheriff's Department electronically. The deputies use hand-held computers to issue the citations; the citations are downloaded to the sheriff's main computer. From there, clerks at Sparks Justices' Court retrieve and print all the citations meant for their court. By passing citations electronically, data entry by court clerks is virtually eliminated, in turn eliminating delay and waste, reducing staff time and the possibility of error when the same data is entered again and again. Once the case is concluded, the Sparks court can forward the dispositions immediately to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) once they are in a position to retrieve them. And that is expected in the near future.

The Eighth Judicial District's web site in Clark County makes self-help legal forms available over the Internet. Even the Fourth, in Elko, makes court forms in domestic relation cases available on the Internet.

The MC-IJIS project—the Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System—which is also known as the Griffin Project—because it is the brainchild of District Judge Mike Griffin here in Carson City—began as an electronic information sharing system for all the criminal justice entities in Carson City, Storey, Churchill and Lyon Counties. It has grown. It is nearing completion. When

it becomes operational, it will permit the sharing of data in criminal cases among the courts, law enforcement entities, as well as the State Criminal History Repository. What began as a rural project soon demonstrated its potential for statewide application. It should be on-line this year.

And not to be outdone, the Henderson Municipal Court expects this year to provide real-time video/audio streaming access via the Internet to all its court proceedings. You can watch your spouse take their speeding ticket to Henderson Municipal Court and you don't have to leave home.

At the Supreme Court level, we have been busy both administratively and in addressing the caseload. We commenced and completed the Jury Improvement Commission; the results of which we hope will benefit the courts and the

public we serve in terms of cost savings and improvement in the procedures of trial, which we hope will advance the cause of justice. We look forward to working with the legislature as you consider statutory changes in exemptions and the method of juror compensation that we will request as a result of the commission's recommendations. We have worked closely with the State Bar Association on the multi-jurisdictional practice of law-making Nevada the first state in the union to adopt comprehensive rules regulating multi-state practice. We

have revised our own bar admission rules and will begin offering the bar examination two times a year in 2004.

We revised our rules governing the limited admission to practice in Nevada under circumstances that will benefit the work of legal services corporations and public service with the district attorney and the public defender, primarily in rural areas. In capital cases we have adopted rules governing the appointment of panels. Many other projects were undertaken to address such areas as the management of construction defect cases, expansion of drug courts and the expansion of alternative dispute resolution programs, including the short jury trial program and mandatory arbitration. We have worked closely with the District, Justices', and Municipal Courts to revitalize the state and regional judicial councils. At the Supreme Court, we have extensively revised our internal operating procedures as we continue our efforts to expedite justice in our case dispositions. On that point, 1,711 cases were filed in 2002. We have not experienced an increase in our annual filings over the last 5 or 6 years. We have continued to attack the backlog, with further case reductions in the past 2 years of 341 cases. Our total case inventory is currently at 1,363 cases. We can't properly call this a backlog anymore, as many of these cases are not yet at issue; they are still in the pipeline



State of the Judiciary Message (cont.)

awaiting full briefing, or records from the trial court, or argument, or disposition discussion.

The panel system has been very helpful in addressing the backlog, but as we gain experience with the panel process, so do the attorneys. As a result we are seeing the same case several additional times in the form of motions for rehearing by the panel and reconsideration by the en banc court and rehearing by the en banc court. When a motion for rehearing or reconsideration is made, by its nature it activates a complete review of the case and the record by the court. These motions require then a great deal of time and resources to be handled responsibly.

We have given a great deal of thought to our aspirations for the institution of an Intermediate Appellate Court (IAC) in Nevada. We consider the eventual creation of such a court an indispensable feature of the court system in Nevada, in its future. However, we are cognizant of several realities. First, filings in the Supreme Court have not increased. In graphing out the development of our caseload you can actually see that the court's filings seem to increase and then level off, increase and level off, each time at a higher level. But while we are in a period of level filings and while we have done so much to decrease the backlog and expedite cases, we recognize that during this time of financial uncertainty and fragility, the citizens of Nevada may be hard pressed to agree to spend tax dollars to fund a new appellate court. They would have the final say because they would vote. As Justice Bob Rose has said so many times in the past, in reference to the expected increase in Supreme Court's caseload, "We know the train is on the track, we just don't know when it will get here." So, after much reflection and discussion as a court and with somber hearts, we will ask you to enact legislation authorizing the creation of an IAC as a first time process. We will also seek to change the language of the proposed constitutional amendment from the mandatory language used in the past, "the legislature must create an IAC," to permissive language, "the legislature may create an IAC." We would then leave it to you to decide when the time is right and the money is available for the implementation of this court.

The settlement program at the Supreme Court continues to support our efforts with the caseload as well. We could not deal effectively and expeditiously with the current incoming cases without that program. The money appropriated for the settlement program is money well spent. Of the cases referred to the settlement program, we continue to experience a successful settlement rate of around 54 percent.

What is the Supreme Court's direction, and the future direction of the courts of this state? In a word, technology. The heart of our proposed budget is technology. As I speak today, the Supreme Court is in poor shape technologically. With the institution of an in-house Information Technology committee, comprised of representatives of the AOC, the staff of the court, and justices of the court we have identified our areas of deficiencies and extended our existing resources as best we can to address the deficiencies. We are possibly the last state Supreme Court in the United States to go on line with a web site. That happened just a couple of months ago. It is a small website and it is not an interactive website. It is static. The site does not allow for E-filing, access to the court's calendar, docket, schedule, documents, or records of cases, or for any case status. We

were the last state in the union to put our published opinions on-line, and they are only on-line now due to the largesse of the Legislative Counsel Bureau which maintains them for us on their website.

We have no imaged documents in the Supreme Court. I have no ability to electronically access briefs or pleadings filed by the parties. Because of inadequate storage space, we do not require the parties to file seven copies of every document. So, if I want to see a brief in

a case, because of a question that I have, I need to order the briefs from the clerk's office. Aside from the stress this puts on the clerk's office to locate, pull and deliver the material requested, by the time it gets to me, some time has passed, I may be on to the next case, and I've forgotten my question. In the daily use of our computers, we have no one readily available on staff to assist any of the Supreme Court's 84 staff members and justices in answering questions concerning the software we utilize much less to provide needed training in the software we all use daily like Word, or could use if we knew how to use it. We have it; we just don't know how to use it, which is why I am not up here with PowerPoint. It is things like PowerPoint and Excel that we have not yet learned. I admit it.

We have no one but the Clerk and her hardware-technical staff with sufficient knowledge of our Case Management System to provide training to the judges on that system. And the Clerk and the hardware technicians are stretched far too thin in their duties to do other than answer questions when posed. We rely upon the AOC staff, which we share with the rest of the courts in the state, to assist when we experience glitches.

With respect to the Internet and E-filing, the public and the legal community have come to expect and demand electronic services and electronic access to the courts. And yet no member of the public can access our records here at



State of the Judiciary Message (cont.)

the court, nor as mentioned, our schedules, dockets, calendar or cases.

With respect to the future of the courts in Nevada, I will convene two commissions this year. Neither one is going to be front-page news but will help the court to operate with integrity in the future and will allow us to plan for the future needs of the courts.

First, I plan a commission to achieve consensus in the application of administrative assessments and in their collections. It is important to the integrity of the judicial system that people who are charged with infractions no matter how minor, be treated fairly and uniformly by the various courts. Right now there are differences in when administrative fees will be assessed and collected. I believe that if the lower courts can agree upon and then buy into a uniform process, the entire system will benefit and we will learn much about the volatility of this source of revenue and perhaps enhance its stability to some degree.

The second commission is to study the funding of every court in this state. The legislative audit of the courts of Nevada pointed up the need for courts at all levels to have uniform collection practices. And yet, we know that all the courts of this state are not funded at the same level. Each Municipal and Justices' and District Court must seek its own funding from its city council or county commission. As a result, some courts are treated more generously than others and some are better equipped than others to respond to requests to change and enhance local practices. But until we know more about the financial health of each court in this state we are not in a position to evaluate whether any possible changes are realistic to suggest to them. Also, because we anticipate that at some point there will be a discussion concerning whether Nevada should explore a unified court system, we must have this baseline data and some preliminary recommendations from the commission in order to intelligently evaluate the health of these courts and what position the courts might take.

It is one thing to talk about the Supreme Court of Nevada as the administrative head of all the courts, it is quite another for the Supreme Court to attempt to exercise close supervision of the lower courts when we have no say over and little knowledge of their financial health. For the courts to continue the great collegiality that has come to exist from working together, I believe we must respect the positions we might put the lower courts in if we tried to require them to do things they cannot afford to do. So, I hope this commission on court funding will benefit the courts and the legislature in evaluating future proposals for changes in the court structure.

As I close, I want to tell you about the Justice of the Peace in Austin, Nevada. Judge Jim Anderson runs a small court in a small rural community. When a member of his community comes in to file a small claims action, Judge Anderson calls to action his courtesy letter program. Before accepting the case for filing, the judge offers to send a letter to the proposed defendant, from the court, letting that person know that the plaintiff might take action. Knowing that people who can settle their differences are often happier than those who go to court, and knowing that in a small town, resort to the court can lead to years of hard feelings and tension, this judge has taken it upon himself to give the parties a chance to work things out. Last year, out of 24 cases that might have been filed, only 11 actually needed to be filed. Now, true, this might not work in Las Vegas, but Judge Anderson's resourcefulness and concern

for the well being of his community exemplifies to me, and I hope to you, the spirit that is moving within the judiciary of this state, a desire to be the something that moves to make things happen.

The principle upon which all the attributes of a well functioning judicial system rests is allegiance to the rule of law. Ours is a government and society of laws. Whether it be the Magna Carta, the Ten Commandments or the Justinian Code, faithfulness to the rule of law creates order,

predictability and result; harmony provides for fairness and equal application, justice so that we do not descend into lawlessness. In knowing the boundaries, we respect them and one another. We protect the rule of law. We honor it. The many judicial programs, projects and innovations I've outlined for you today exist because judges want to assure that the judicial system continues to operate as it should, so that the rule of law might exist in a healthy fashion.

What does it take for the system to work? It takes you. It takes me. It takes everyone, all of us, supporting the system, behaving reasonably, agreeing to the broad principles upon which the system is based, even if there is disagreement as to the details.

Socrates (470-399 B.C.) said: "Four things belong to a judge: to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially."

It is with pride that I represent to you, the lawmakers of Nevada, that the state of the judiciary here is good, sound, principled, and heading for the future. We look forward to a positive interaction with you through the days remaining in this legislative session.

I thank you.



Nevada Judiciary

The Nevada Judiciary is one of three branches of government—the other two are the Executive and Legislative branches. The Nevada Judiciary has the responsibility to provide impartial, efficient, and accessible dispute resolution in legal matters.

Most of the public is familiar with or has contact with the Municipal and Justice Courts; these are the courts that handle traffic and parking citations and lesser civil filings. Both of these courts have limited jurisdictions.

The Municipal Courts manage cases involving violations of traffic and misdemeanor ordinances that occur within the city limits of incorporated municipalities. Each of these courts is funded by the city and most of the funds collected by the Municipal Court go into the municipalities' general fund. During fiscal year 2003, Nevada had 18 Municipal Courts that were presided over by 29 Municipal Court judges with 11 of them also serving as justices of the peace. See Appendix Table A1 for the number of judges in each court.

The Justice Courts handle misdemeanor crime and traffic matters, small claims disputes, evictions, and other civil matters less than \$7,500¹. The justices of the peace also preside over felony and gross misdemeanor arraignments and conduct preliminary hearings to determine if sufficient evidence exists to hold criminals for trial at District Court. Each county funds Justice Courts and the funds collected by the courts go to their respective county treasurer for disbursement to county and state entities. During fiscal year 2003, Nevada had 52 Justice Courts presided over by 66 justices of the peace with 11 of them also serving as Municipal Court judges. See Appendix Table A1 for the number of judges in each court.

The District Courts have general jurisdiction over all legal disputes. These are the courts where criminal, civil, family, and juvenile matters are generally resolved through arbitration, mediation, and bench or jury trials. [See section *Alternative Dispute Resolution Program*.] The judges

also hear appeals from Justice and Municipal Court cases. The funding for District Courts is split between the state and counties. District Court judges' salaries are paid by the state while the county pays for support staff and court facilities. The 17 county courts in Nevada are divided into 9 Judicial Districts presided over by 60 judges. See Appendix Table A1 for the number of judges in each court.

The Supreme Court is the state's highest court and its primary responsibility is to review and rule on appeals from District Court cases. The court does not conduct fact-finding trials; rather, the justices determine if legal or procedural errors were committed. Generally, the Supreme Court is funded almost equally from the state general fund and from administrative assessments. The Supreme Court has seven justices.

Uniform System for Judicial Records

The Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) was established in June 1999 by Supreme Court order. USJR requires trial courts to submit information defined in the Nevada USJR Court Statistical Reporting Model (USJR Model) to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) monthly. The information in the USJR Model is divided into four case categories: criminal, civil, family, and juvenile. In fiscal year 2003, two types of statistics were collected in each of these categories. The two types are *cases filed* (the number and type of cases opened) and *dispositions* (the number and type of cases adjudicated or closed). The caseload and dispositions for each case category have been defined and consistently categorized for every court.

As technology and resources allow, future phases of USJR will be defined and data will be collected. The next phase will include events in court case processing and the final phase will be the status of pending cases.

¹The 2003 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 100, which increases the amount of civil disputes to be heard in Justice Courts to \$10,000 effective January 2005.

This annual report provides caseload inventory (filing) and disposition statistics for all 87 trial courts in the state—17 District Courts, 52 Justice Courts, and 18 Municipal Courts. Where court information varies from the model or is incomplete, explanatory footnotes are provided.

Statewide, the total non-traffic caseload increased overall in all categories while it varied among individual courts with some increasing and some decreasing. This overall increase follows with the continued increase in population. For District Courts, Table 1 shows about a 7 percent increase in overall non-traffic caseload. Civil and family caseloads saw the largest increase in District Court at about 11 and 10 percent, respectively.

For Justice Courts, Table 1 shows an increase in civil and traffic caseloads. Justice Court criminal non-traffic filings were slightly lower than last year (about 1 percent decline). Traffic and parking filings increased about 4 percent. Most of the misdemeanor increase (traffic and non-traffic) was observed during the last 6 months of the fiscal year.

For Municipal Courts, Table 1 shows an increase in criminal non-traffic case filings (about 5 percent) while traffic and parking filings were flat, having only a minor increase (less than 1 percent). As these courts rely largely on local law enforcement, these totals are greatly influenced by the number of law enforcement positions filled or vacant. Civil filings are rare in Municipal Courts and are usually for the recovery of unpaid city utility bills.

Table 1. Reported Total Nevada Statewide Trial Court Caseload, Fiscal Years 2000-03

| Court | Fiscal Year | Criminal ¹ | Civil ² | Family ² | Juvenile | Total Non-traffic caseload | Traffic and parking ³ |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| District | 2003 | 12,001 | 28,077 | 52,258 | 22,204 | 114,540 | 5,997 |
| | 2002 | 12,191 | 25,303 _r | 47,676 | 22,148 | 107,318 _r | 5,425 |
| | 2001 | 11,782 | 23,383 | 42,989 | 18,873 _r | 97,027 _r | 4,134 _r |
| | 2000 | 11,477 | 23,511 | 41,676 | 15,967 _r | 92,631 _r | 2,650 _r |
| Justice | 2003 | 76,078 | 106,593 | NJ | NJ | 182,671 | 416,505 |
| | 2002 | 76,928 _r | 101,204 | NJ | NJ | 178,132 _r | 398,679 _r |
| | 2001 | 74,735 _r | 93,342 | NJ | NJ | 168,077 _r | 401,937 _r |
| | 2000 | 73,881 _r | 83,968 | NJ | NJ | 157,849 _r | 409,829 _r |
| Municipal | 2003 | 73,605 | 3 | NJ | NJ | 73,608 | 240,554 |
| | 2002 | 70,242 | 125 | NJ | NJ | 70,367 | 239,394 |
| | 2001 | 65,367 _r | NF | NJ | NJ | 65,367 _r | 232,468 _r |
| | 2000 | 69,663 | NF | NJ | NJ | 69,663 | 253,078 |
| TOTAL | 2003 | 161,684 | 134,673 | 52,258 | 22,204 | 370,819 | 663,056 |
| | 2002 | 159,361 _r | 126,632 _r | 47,676 | 22,148 | 355,817 _r | 643,498 |
| | 2001 | 151,884 _r | 116,725 | 42,989 | 18,873 _r | 330,471 _r | 638,539 _r |
| | 2000 | 155,021 _r | 107,479 | 41,676 | 15,967 _r | 320,143 _r | 665,557 _r |

NF No filings.

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

¹ Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, and non-traffic misdemeanor filings and are counted by defendants.

² Reopened cases previously reported by courts have been included in earlier years totals to allow more accurate comparison because reopened cases are included in this year's total. Numbers in these columns will be different from previous annual reports.

³ Traffic and parking filings are counted by charges, not defendants. Not all courts process parking violations. District Court numbers are juvenile traffic.

_r Data totals revised from initial publication by courts improving their collection process.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Supreme Court

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in the state. Nevada does not have an intermediate appellate court. The main constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review appeals from the decisions of the District Courts. As the only appellate court, the Supreme Court does not have discretionary review and must consider all cases filed. The Supreme Court does not conduct any fact-finding trials, but rather determines whether procedural or legal errors were made in the rendering of the lower court decision.

As can be seen in Table 2, the Supreme Court had 1,841 filings during the last fiscal year, up 5 percent from the year before. The Justices disposed of just under 1,900 cases, slightly less than the year before. During fiscal year 2003, the Supreme Court continued to reduce its pending caseload to 1,426 cases. The previous high was 2,521 cases pending at the end of 1997—a reduction of 1,095 cases.

The majority of the Court’s caseload involves appeals from District Court cases. The breakdown by judicial district is provided in Table 3. As expected, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) leads in total appeals with appeals increasing 97 cases (5 percent of the total caseload) from last fiscal year. The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) was second in number of appeals, which decreased by 27 cases (3 percent of the total caseload) from last year.

Table 2. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2000-03

| | Fiscal Year 2000 | Fiscal Year 2001 | Fiscal Year 2002 | Fiscal Year 2003 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cases Filed | | | | |
| Bar Matters | 23 | 35 | 29 | 29 |
| Appeals | 1,661 | 1,474 | 1,478 | 1,519 |
| Original Proceedings | 240 | 231 | 226 | 282 |
| Other | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Reinstated | 10 | 18 | 15 | 10 |
| Total Cases Filed | 1,940 | 1,760 | 1,752 | 1,841 |
| Cases Disposed | | | | |
| By Opinions | 111 | 112 | 81 | 87 |
| By Order | 1,821 | 1,896 | 1,825 | 1,802 |
| Total Cases Disposed | 1,932 | 2,008 | 1,906 | 1,889 |
| Cases Pending | 1,890 | 1,628 | 1,474 | 1,426 |
| Number of Opinions Written* | 106 | 102 | 77 | 85 |

* Includes opinions that do not dispose of cases.
Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk’s Office.

Table 3. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2000-03

| Fiscal Year | Judicial Districts | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| | First | Second | Third | Fourth | Fifth | Sixth | Seventh | Eighth | Ninth | | |
| Civil Appeals Filed | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2003 | 28 4% | 150 21% | 16 2% | 9 1% | 10 1% | 4 1% | 10 1% | 480 66% | 15 2% | 722 100% | |
| 2002 | 43 6% | 132 19% | 11 2% | 9 1% | 10 1% | 15 2% | 5 1% | 465 66% | 11 2% | 701 100% | |
| 2001 | 23 3% | 125 19% | 15 2% | 14 2% | 12 2% | 11 2% | 10 1% | 452 67% | 9 1% | 671 100% | |
| 2000 | 34 4% | 126 16% | 14 2% | 11 1% | 6 1% | 8 1% | 7 1% | 590 73% | 13 2% | 809 100% | |
| Criminal Appeals Filed | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2003 | 13 2% | 206 26% | 18 2% | 29 4% | 17 2% | 13 2% | 17 2% | 478 60% | 6 <1% | 797 100% | |
| 2002 | 28 4% | 245 32% | 18 2% | 26 3% | 21 3% | 20 3% | 15 2% | 396 51% | 8 <1% | 777 100% | |
| 2001 | 30 4% | 244 30% | 30 4% | 22 3% | 11 1% | 27 3% | 16 2% | 419 52% | 4 <1% | 803 100% | |
| 2000 | 42 5% | 226 27% | 29 3% | 29 3% | 26 3% | 25 3% | 16 2% | 451 53% | 8 <1% | 852 100% | |
| Total Appeals Filed | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2003 | 41 3% | 356 23% | 34 2% | 38 3% | 27 2% | 17 1% | 27 2% | 958 63% | 21 1% | 1,519 100% | |
| 2002 | 71 5% | 377 26% | 29 2% | 35 2% | 31 2% | 35 2% | 20 1% | 861 58% | 19 1% | 1,478 100% | |
| 2001 | 53 4% | 369 25% | 45 3% | 36 2% | 23 2% | 38 3% | 26 2% | 871 59% | 13 1% | 1,474 100% | |
| 2000 | 76 5% | 352 21% | 43 3% | 40 2% | 32 2% | 33 2% | 23 1% | 1,041 63% | 21 1% | 1,661 100% | |

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk’s Office.

Supreme Court (cont.)

Appellate Court Comparisons

In contrast to the caseload of appellate courts nationwide, which experienced an overall 5 percent decline in 2001, the Nevada Supreme Court experienced a 5 percent increase over last year. The 2001 caseload numbers published by the National Center for State Courts^{2,3} indicate that in states without an intermediate appellate court, the Nevada Supreme Court was ranked fifth. The District of Columbia is first with 290 appeals per 100,000 persons, then West Virginia with 147, Montana and Vermont tied at 101 each, and Nevada with 86. If the discretionary appeals are removed from consideration and only those appeals granted are counted, Nevada is ranked third at 86 appeals per 100,000 persons. The District of Columbia is first with 281 and Vermont second with 97.

A comparison of caseload and related information for selected courts with some similarities⁴ to Nevada is provided in Table 4. Information about some states with

intermediate appellate courts is included also. Nevada has more filings per justice (258) than most other appellate courts according to data published by the National Center for State Courts^{2,3}. Of the two other states in Table 4 without intermediate appellate courts, Nevada has double or more filings per justice.

Throughout the nation, only 11 states (Delaware, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) and the District of Columbia do not have intermediate appellate courts. With increasing caseloads during the last 30 years, many states either added intermediate appellate courts or expanded the discretionary jurisdiction (the type of cases they may choose to hear) of their Supreme Court. Nevada does not have this discretionary jurisdiction and must consider all cases filed.

Table 4. Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected Appellate Courts With and Without Intermediate Appellate Courts. All data from National Center for State Courts for 2001.

| | Nevada | Montana | Maine | Arizona | Oregon | New Mexico | Alaska | Arkansas |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|----------|
| Population rank | 36 | 45 | 41 | 20 | 28 | 37 | 48 | 34 |
| | Intermediate Appellate Court | | | | | | | |
| Justices | | | | 22 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 12 |
| En banc or panels | | | | Panels | Both | Panels of 3 | En Banc | Both |
| Cases filed & granted* | | | | 3,462 | 4,084 | 903 | 272 | 1,183 |
| Cases per justice | | | | 157 | 408 | 90 | 91 | 99 |
| | Supreme Court | | | | | | | |
| Justices | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 7 |
| En banc or panels | Both | Both | En Banc | En Banc | En Banc | Panels of 3 | En Banc | En Banc |
| Cases filed & granted* | 1,803 | 909 | 529 | 1,249 | 1,257 | 86 | 299 | 531 |
| Cases per justice | 258 | 130 | 76 | 250 | 180 | 17 | 60 | 76 |

* This number includes all cases heard by the court. For states with discretionary petitions, only the petitions granted are included.

² Ostrom, B.J., Kauder, N.B., and Lafountain, R.C., eds., 2003, *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2002, A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project*: National Center for State Courts, p. 70-71.

³ Strickland, S.M., and Otto, B.G., comps., 2003, *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2002*: National Center for State Courts, 230 p.

⁴ The states were selected because of their population ranking (Maine, New Mexico, Arkansas), their regional location (Montana, Arizona, Oregon, New Mexico, Alaska) and/or they had five or seven justices in their Supreme Court (all) without regard to how many justices were in the Intermediate Appellate Court.

District Courts

The District Courts have general jurisdiction. Their jurisdiction is over all felony and gross misdemeanor cases, which are considered together as criminal cases, and civil cases where the amount in dispute exceeds \$7,500⁵. They also have jurisdiction for all family and juvenile cases. Some judicial districts use Juvenile Masters who hear traffic and other juvenile cases.

The 17 counties of Nevada are divided into 9 Judicial Districts. The sparse populations of rural Nevada have necessitated that five of the Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties (see Figure 1). These judges must travel among the multiple counties to hear cases on a regular

basis. District Judges have statewide authority and may hear cases throughout the state although they are elected within the Judicial District they generally serve.

Statistical Summary

The District Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 5. Summary disposition information is included in Table 6. This is the fourth year of statistics for the courts. With 4 years of data, some trends may begin to materialize; however, increases during the early years of data collection may be affected as much by improved reporting as by true increased caseloads.

Figure 1. District Court Judges and the Judicial Districts of Nevada as of June 30, 2003.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carson City and Storey County
 Judge Michael Griffin
 Judge William Maddox

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Washoe County
 Judge Brent Adams
 Judge Janet Berry
 Judge Peter Breen
 Judge Frances Doherty
 Judge Steve Elliott
 Judge James Hardesty
 Judge Scott Jordan
 Judge Steven Kosach
 Judge Charles McGee
 Judge Jerome Polaha
 Judge Deborah Schumacher
 Judge Connie Steinheimer

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Churchill and Lyon Counties
 Judge Archie Blake
 Judge Robert Estes
 Judge David Huff

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Elko County
 Judge Mike Memeo
 Judge Andrew Puccinelli

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Esmeralda, Mineral, & Nye Counties
 Judge John Davis
 Judge Robert Lane

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Humboldt, Lander, & Pershing Counties
 Judge John Iroz
 Judge Richard Wagner

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

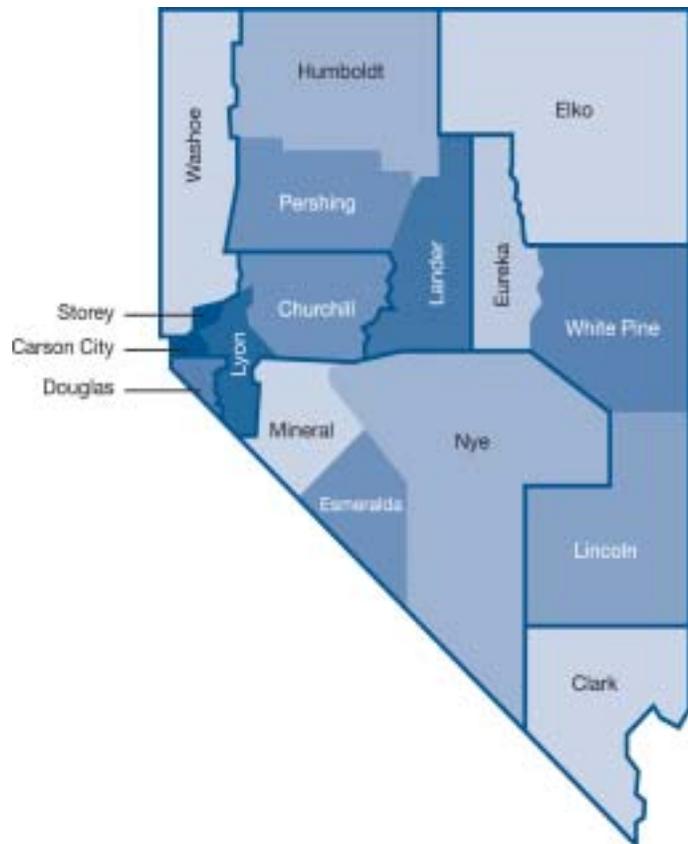
Eureka, Lincoln, & White Pine Counties
 Judge Steve Dobrescu
 Judge Dan Papez

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Clark County
 Judge Valerie Adair
 Judge Stewart Bell
 Judge Joseph Bonaventure
 Judge Lisa Brown
 Judge Michael Cherry
 Judge Nicholas Del Vecchio
 Judge Mark Denton
 Judge Michael Douglas
 Judge Allan Earl
 Judge Jennifer Elliott
 Judge Robert Gaston
 Judge Lee Gates
 Judge Jackie Glass
 Judge Gerald Hardcastle
 Judge Kathy Hardcastle
 Judge Steven Jones
 Judge Michelle Leavitt
 Judge Sally Loehrer
 Judge Robert Lueck
 Judge John McGroarty
 Judge Donald Mosley
 Judge Cheryl Moss
 Judge Ronald Parraguirre
 Judge Gene Porter
 Judge Arthur Ritchie, Jr.
 Judge Nancy Saitta
 Judge Gloria Sanchez
 Judge Dianne Steel
 Judge Jennifer Togliatti
 Judge Valorie Vega
 Judge William Voy
 Judge David Wall
 Judge Jessie Walsh

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Douglas County
 Judge David Gamble
 Judge Michael Gibbons



⁵ The 2003 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 100, which increases the amount of civil disputes to be heard in Justice Courts to \$10,000 effective January 2005.

District Courts (cont.)

Table 5. Summary of District Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2002-03

| | <u>Criminal Cases Filed</u> | | <u>Civil Cases Filed</u> | | <u>Family Cases Filed</u> | | <u>Juvenile Non-Traffic Cases Filed</u> | | <u>Total Non-Traffic Cases Filed</u> | | <u>Juvenile Traffic Violations</u> | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City District Court | 328 | 346 | 675 | 666 | 897 | 887 | 1,066 | 1,045 | 2,966 | 2,944 | 1,063 | 953 |
| Storey County District Court | 20 | 31 | 29 | 54 | 81 | 114 | 29 | 48 | 159 | 247 | 23 | 18 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County District Court | 3,033 | 3,214 | 4,397 | 3,522 <i>r</i> | 9,862 | 7,837 | 5,199 | 5,525 | 22,491 | 20,111 | NR | NR |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County District Court | 179 | 156 | 114 | 155 | 530 | 535 | 1,100 | 903 | 1,923 | 1,749 | 229 | 197 |
| Lyon County District Court | 169 | 203 | 240 | 205 | 480 | 387 | 844 | 756 | 1,733 | 1,551 | 1,225 | 1,154 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County District Court | 202 | 259 | 480 | 382 | 846 | 814 | 512 | 648 | 2,040 | 2,103 | 807 | 1,341 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County District Court | 9 | 34 | 17 | 17 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 37 | 61 | 18 | 10 |
| Mineral County District Court | 31 | 30 | 37 | 51 | 97 | 70 | 53 | 140 | 218 | 291 | 15 | 24 |
| Nye County District Court | 254 | 237 | 287 | 304 | 1,013 | 1,006 | 848 | 1,007 | 2,402 | 2,554 | 233 | 274 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County District Court | 109 | 122 | 115 | 92 | 297 | 386 | 172 | 131 | 693 | 731 | NR | 0 |
| Lander County District Court | 22 | 20 | 39 | 31 | 58 | 56 | 94 | 83 | 213 | 190 | 124 | 129 |
| Pershing County District Court | 45 | 46 | 70 | 52 | 85 | 103 | 114 | 65 | 314 | 266 | 27 | 5 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County District Court | 17 | 11 | 28 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 22 | 58 | 52 | (a) | (a) |
| Lincoln County District Court | 26 | 22 | 40 | 38 | 38 | 45 | 52 | 53 | 156 | 158 | (a) | (a) |
| White Pine County District Court | 78 | 59 | 100 | 104 | 133 | 142 | 91 | 103 | 402 | 408 | (a) | (a) |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County District Court | 7,356 | 7,293 | 20,999 | 18,111 | 37,085 | 30,742 | 11,696 | 11,263 | 77,136 | 67,409 | 1,760 | 1,320 |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County District Court | 123 | 108 | 410 | 346 | 737 | 749 | 329 | 352 | 1,599 | 1,555 | 473 | NR |
| Total | 12,001 | 12,191 | 28,077 | 24,143 <i>r</i> | 52,258 | 43,885 | 22,204 | 22,148 | 114,540 | 102,380 | 5,997 | 5,425 |

NR Not reported.

Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.

a Juvenile traffic violations handled by Justice Courts.

r Revised.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Statewide, the District Court criminal caseload for fiscal year 2003 decreased little more than 1 percent from the previous year (see Table 5). Interestingly, criminal filings decreased in Washoe County and increased in Clark County.

The civil caseload increased about 16 percent statewide. Among the counties with larger populations, Washoe and Clark had 25 and 16 percent increases, respectively. Larger increases in the counties with smaller populations included Eureka County with 115 percent (from 13 to 28 cases) and Pershing County with 35 percent.

Family-related cases are handled only at the District Court level. The statewide total caseload for the fiscal year saw more than a 19 percent increase over last year. Six District Courts experienced double digit increases over their previous year filings. Of the rural courts, Esmeralda

and Eureka County District Courts led the increase with 66 and 50 percent, respectively. However, it should be noted they had 10 or fewer cases for the year. Of the urban courts, Washoe County District Court had the largest increase with almost 26 percent, Clark County District Court followed at almost 21 percent.

Juvenile case filings reported by District Courts for fiscal year 2003 were very close to the previous year. Juvenile traffic violations are separated from other juvenile cases, especially at the District Court level, in part because procedures among the judicial districts vary.

Comparing the 2001 caseloads of general jurisdiction courts of Nevada to those of the surrounding eight western states highlights some interesting points (see Table 7). Nevada has the fewest number of judges per 100,000 in population (2.7) than any western state. Nevada also ranks

District Courts (cont.)

Table 6. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2002-03

| | Criminal Cases Disposed | | Civil Cases Disposed | | Family Cases Disposed | | Juvenile Non-Traffic Disposed | | Total Non-Traffic Disposed | | Juvenile Traffic Disposed | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City District Court | 330 | 93 | 424 | 238 | 796 | 366 | 253 | 363 | 1,803 | 1,060 | 1,015 | 966 |
| Storey County District Court | 9 | 35 | 14 | 27 | 57 | 64 | 10 | 42 | 90 | 168 | 24 | 19 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County District Court | 2,659 | 2,553 | 2,971 | 1,236 | 9,837 | 2,910 | 2,142 | 2,193 | 17,609 | 8,892 | NR | NR |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County District Court | 125 | 133 | 103 | 90 | 565 | 381 | 291 | 344 | 1,084 | 948 | 239 | 195 |
| Lyon County District Court | 170 | 189 | 73 | 48 | 166 | 132 | 438 | 384 | 847 | 753 | 497 | 539 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County District Court | 274 | 280 | 169 | 159 | 739 | 868 | 248 | 326 | 1,430 | 1,633 | 455 | 773 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County District Court | 6 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 24 | 2 | 0 |
| Mineral County District Court | 30 | 28 | 17 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 61 | 116 | 146 | 217 | 13 | 13 |
| Nye County District Court | 233 | 218 | 152 | 127 | 732 | 617 | 521 | 501 | 1,638 | 1,463 | 327 | 319 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County District Court | 109 | 87 | 36 | 42 | 214 | 238 | 21 | 20 | 380 | 387 | NR | 0 |
| Lander County District Court | 17 | 31 | 22 | 27 | 43 | 65 | 75 | 52 | 157 | 175 | 85 | 96 |
| Pershing County District Court | 47 | 33 | 32 | 46 | 133 | 81 | 63 | 61 | 275 | 221 | 24 | 4 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County District Court | 7 | 17 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 34 | (a) | (a) |
| Lincoln County District Court | 19 | 13 | 28 | 5 | 29 | 15 | 29 | 30 | 105 | 63 | (a) | (a) |
| White Pine County District Court | 43 | 43 | 2 | 6 | 143 | 108 | 0 | 38 | 188 | 195 | (a) | (a) |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County District Court | 14,859 | 11,195 | 18,438 | 16,559 | 37,275 | 45,896 | 7,492 | 5,254 | 78,064 | 78,904 | NR | NR |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County District Court | 107 | 92 | 282 | 225 | 656 | 649 | 253 | 242 | 1,298 | 1,208 | 473 | NR |
| Total | 19,059 | 15,049 | 22,771 | 18,878 | 51,426 | 52,442 | 11,898 | 9,976 | 105,154 | 96,345 | 3,154 | 2,924 |

NR Not reported.

Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.

a Juvenile traffic violations handled by Justice Courts.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

third in the categories of filings per judge and filings per 100,000 population among those states.

Disposition information for District Courts is provided in Table 6. This is the third year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information, which is difficult for courts. Most courts count manually, some courts had their case management systems modified during the year, and some courts were unable to provide accurate and complete information. As with many such projects, the accuracy and completeness of this information will improve over time.

Total dispositions by case type category increased over last year except for family case dispositions, some owing to improved reporting and others to improved clearance rates. Clark County has been reviewing old cases, especially criminal, and closing those cases that were open but should have been closed previously. This has resulted

Table 7. Comparison of Nevada District Court Caseload with Other Western States General Jurisdiction Court Caseloads. Data from National Center for State Courts, 2001.

| State | General Jurisdiction Court | Judges Per 100,000 Population | Filings Per Judge | Filings Per 100,000 Population |
|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nevada | District | 2.7 | 1,375 | 4,497 |
| Alaska | Superior | 5.0 | 472 | 2,780 |
| Arizona | Superior | 3.0 | 1,019 | 3,485 |
| California | Superior | 4.3 | 1,501 | 23,475 |
| Hawaii | Circuit | 3.7 | 734 | 3,859 |
| Idaho | District | 3.0 | 484 | 1,432 |
| Oregon | Circuit | 4.7 | 1,871 | 18,822 |
| Washington | Superior | 2.9 | 1,136 | 4,092 |

District Courts (cont.)

in an approximate 200 percent clearance rate during the last fiscal year. Washoe County closed many old family cases during the fiscal year as is evident by the dispositions that are triple last year's numbers. Dividing the disposition numbers by the filing numbers and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. A clearance rate of 90 percent or better is good. A clearance rate of more than 100 percent generally indicates the court purged old cases as described above.

Cases Per Judicial Position

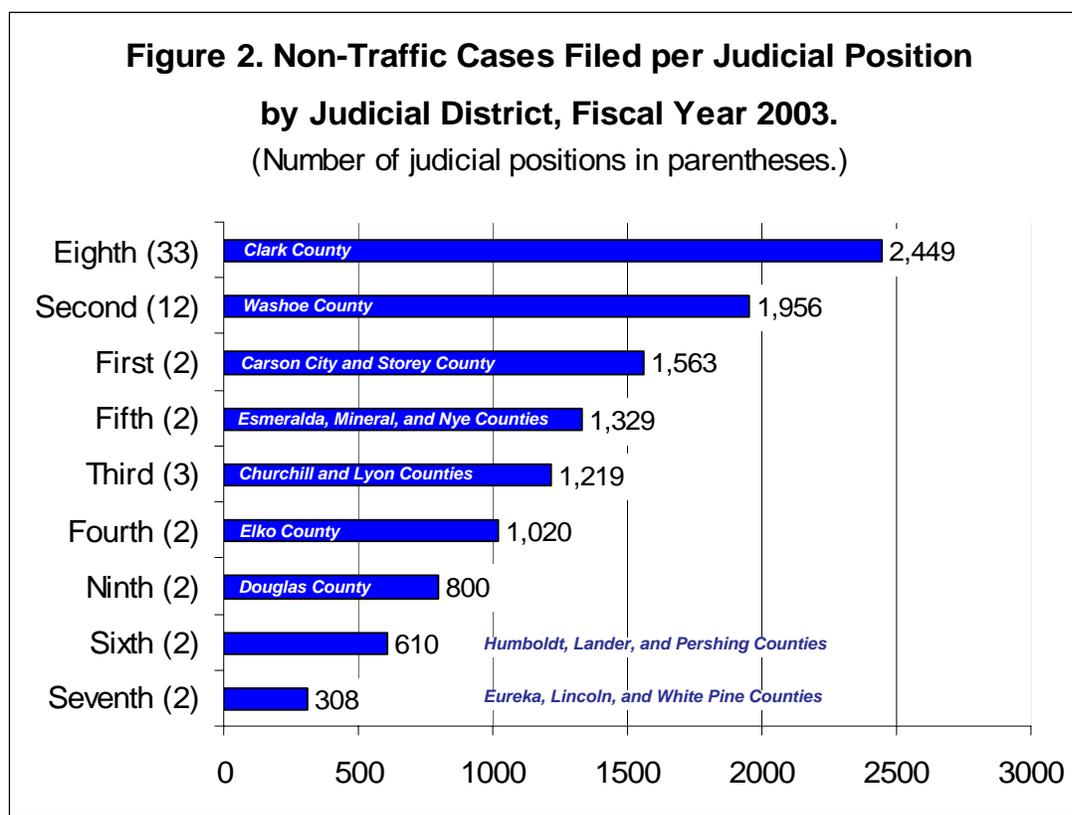
The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for each Judicial District in Nevada for fiscal year 2003 is shown in Figure 2. In the judicial districts that contain more than one county (First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases for those counties are summed and divided by the number of judges for that district.

To make the comparisons more consistent, juvenile traffic charges were removed from the totals used for calculating the cases filed per judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines and not

require judicial time. At the District Court level, Juvenile Masters or District Court Judges handle juvenile traffic cases and the cases may be counted at the District or Justice Court level depending on the processes within the judicial district.

As expected for fiscal year 2003, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) has the largest number of non-traffic cases per judicial position at 2,449. Although three judges were added in the middle of the fiscal year, the average for this year is higher than last year (2,247). The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) was next with 1,956 cases per judicial position. They also added a new position in the middle of the year and still saw an increase in the average cases per judicial position from last fiscal year (1,828). The First Judicial District (Carson City and Storey County) follows with 1,563 cases per judicial position, which was down slightly from last fiscal year (1,596).

The statewide average number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts increased to 1,974, which is almost 150 cases per judge higher than last fiscal year (1,828). Since the data collection began, this statewide average has continued increasing every year but one—fiscal year 2001. That year, five new judges had been added statewide.



Statewide number of cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,974 (determined by dividing statewide District Court non-traffic cases filed by the number of District Court judges [Table A1]). The Second and Eighth Judicial District numbers are adjusted for the new positions added in January 2003 (one-half positions included for each new addition in fiscal year).

District Courts (cont.)

District Court Judges with smaller caseloads assist the busier District Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. The AOC and the courts are currently unable to quantify this assistance although some effort has begun (see next section). Also, in multi-county judicial districts, judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among their county seats to hear cases. This travel time cuts into the amount of time available to hear cases.

Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts have started the process of quantifying the judicial assistance provided to the courts by Special Masters, Senior Judges, and visiting judges to help dispose cases.

Quasi-Judicial Assistance

The first step in quantifying this assistance was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. These positions have limited authority and are accountable to an elected judge; they cannot be considered equivalent to a full judicial position and, therefore, are called quasi-judicial positions.

Table 8. Estimated Full-time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts, Fiscal Year 2003.

| Court & County | Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE |
|--|---------------------------------|
| First Judicial District Carson City, Storey | 1.0 |
| Second Judicial District Washoe | 6.5 |
| Third Judicial District Churchill, Lyon | 1.0 |
| Fourth Judicial District Elko | 1.0 |
| Fifth Judicial District Esmeralda, Mineral, Nye | 1.0 |
| Sixth Judicial District Humboldt, Lander, Pershing | 2.0 |
| Seventh Judicial District Eureka, Lincoln, White Pine | 0.1 |
| Eighth Judicial District Clark | 11.15 |
| Ninth Judicial District Douglas | 0.5 |

Individuals in these positions, who help with the adjudication process but who are not elected judicial officials, were identified and their time quantified. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent assistance provided during the year; a summary is provided in Table 8. In District Courts, most of the assistance is provided as commissioners, referees, and masters for alterna-

tive dispute resolution, family, and juvenile cases. The work of these quasi-judicial officials must be reviewed and approved by elected judges. These positions are not included in the filings per judicial position chart.

Additionally, in a few districts, such as the Fifth and Seventh Judicial Districts, Justices of the Peace serve as the Juvenile Masters for all juvenile traffic cases.

Senior Judge Program

Alternative methods used to provide intermittent judicial assistance to courts include the Senior Judge program and temporary assignment of District Court Judges. The Senior Judge program is authorized by Supreme Court Rule 10. Briefly, any former Supreme Court Justice or District Court Judge who qualifies for retirement and who was not removed or retired for cause or defeated for retention in an election may apply to become a Senior Justice or Judge. The Senior Judges are eligible for temporary assignment by Supreme Court order to any state trial court at or below the level they previously served.

Information on Senior Judge assignments is provided in Table 9. Each order is counted as one assignment. Some orders may have been signed in previous fiscal years and the Senior Judge is still hearing motions in the case(s). Also, orders may contain multiple judges, days, or cases depending on what type of request was received. Sometimes, Senior Judges are requested when a judge retires or takes an extended leave, so that assignment would be for a period of time to hear whatever cases were on the calendar. Occasionally, Senior Judges are requested when a judge is recused or is peremptorily challenged from a case. That assignment would be for a specific case only.

Table 9. Senior Judge Assignments for Fiscal Year 2003.

| Requesting Judicial District | Senior Judge Assignments | Total Days of Assignments Each Judicial District | Number of Senior Judges Who Served |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| First | 3 | 3.25 | 1 |
| Second | 1 | 0.38 | 1 |
| Third | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fourth | 2 | 21 | 1 |
| Fifth | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sixth | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Seventh | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| Eighth | 36 | 377.39 | 7 |
| Ninth | 1 | 2.31 | 1 |

During fiscal year 2003, the judiciary had seven senior judges actively serving the District Courts. The combined efforts of these judges provided assistance equivalent to almost two full-time judges for the State.

District Courts (cont.)

Assistance by District Court Judges

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may assign District Court Judges to assist in other judicial districts according to Article 6, Section 19 of the Nevada Constitution.

Information on District Court Judge assistance is provided in Table 10. The assistance requested by each Judicial District is given as well as the assistance judges in each judicial district provided to other judicial districts. Each order is counted as one assignment for assistance. However, each order may contain multiple judges, days, or cases depending on what type of request for assistance was received. Sometimes, District Court Judge assignments are requested when a judge retires or takes an extended leave, so that assignment would be for a period of time to hear whatever cases were on the calendar. Sometimes, District Court Judge assistance is requested when another District Court Judge is recused or is preemptorily challenged from a case. That assignment would be for one case only.

Table 10. District Court Judge Assistance for Fiscal Year 2003.

| Judicial District | Assistance Requested by District | Assistance Provided by District (number of orders) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| First | 12 | 6 |
| Second | 1 | 4 |
| Third | 0 | 11 |
| Fourth | 10 | 10 |
| Fifth | 2 | 9 |
| Sixth | 2 | 3 |
| Seventh | 23 | 6 |
| Eighth | 43 | 0 |
| Ninth | 7 | 6 |

During fiscal year 2003, the District Courts had 19 individual judges who filled requests for assistance. Additionally, late in the fiscal year, two Supreme Court Justices (A. William Maupin and Mark Gibbons) served for about a week in the Eighth Judicial District. They both had worked as District Court judges in Clark County before becoming Supreme Court Justices.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program began on July 1, 1992, after passage by the 1991 Legislature of Senate Bill 366. The legislation required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement the ADR Program. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City, Storey County, and Douglas County) subsequently adopted the program voluntarily. An Arbitration Commissioner administers the program in each judicial district.

Initially, the ADR Program was for certain civil cases with probable jury award value of less than \$25,000. A subsequent revision increased the amount to \$40,000; however, the Ninth Judicial District, in the program voluntarily, opted to keep the lower amount.

Caseload and Settlement Rate

The number of cases entering the arbitration program for fiscal year 2003 was higher in three of the four judicial districts than their respective long-term annual average program caseloads (sum of annual caseloads divided by the number of years for their program, respectively). Interestingly, the Eighth Judicial District Court, largest in the state, was the only one to have fewer cases entering the program this fiscal year than their long-term average. The caseload and settlement rates for the fiscal year and the long-term annual average for each district program are provided in Table 11.

The settlement rate can vary greatly from one year to another within each district with the increase or decline in the number of arbitrators, training sessions, and support staff. The settlement rate is the number of cases settled or dismissed after entering the arbitration program compared with those cases requesting trials de novo (new, complete bench or jury trials).

The First Judicial District had a settlement rate that was higher during the fiscal year than the long-term averages for their program. The Second, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial Districts had settlement rates that were lower during the fiscal year than the long-term averages of each of their programs.

The Second, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial Districts collect fees (\$5 per case filing) for the program. All three have expenses that exceed the amount collected in filing fees. The First Judicial District does not collect fees. The judicial districts use the fees for the administration of the arbitration program, including staff and technology expenses.

All four judicial districts continue to find the program a successful alternative to regular trials. The program is well received by members of the bar, litigants, and public because cases in the program are processed expeditiously at minimal time and expense.

District Courts (cont.)

Table 11. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2003.

| | First Judicial District | | Second Judicial District | | Eighth Judicial District** | | Ninth Judicial District | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Fiscal Year 2003 | Long-Term Average (6 years) | Fiscal Year 2003 | Long-Term Average (9 years) | Fiscal Year 2003 | Long-Term Average (11 years) | Fiscal Year 2003 | Long-Term Average (9 years) |
| Civil Caseload | 704 | | 4,397 | | 20,999 | | 410 | |
| Cases Entered * | 295 | 230 | 662 | 579 | 3,695 | 3,739 | 163 | 117 |
| Cases Removed | 68 | 57 | 80 | 46 | 361 | 254 | 40 | 21 |
| Cases Settled or Dismissed | 176 | 134 | 437 | 393 | 918 | 1,707 | 36 | 41 |
| Settlement Rate | 94% | 93% | 78% | 86% | 64% | 65% | 82% | 92% |
| Trials De Novo requested | 12 | 10 | 121 | 67 | 523 | 936 | 8 | 4 |
| Trial De Novo request rate | 6% | 7% | 22% | 14% | 36% | 35% | 18% | 8% |

* First, Second, and Eighth Judicial Districts have a \$40,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District has a \$25,000 maximum. Cases that qualify are automatically included in the program and parties have to request to be removed.

** The case management system used by the Eighth Judicial District does not capture snap shots of information required for these calculations. Instead, if a case is filed in 1999 and settled in 2003, it counts as settled in 1999. Whenever possible the updated information is included in the calculations; however, the actual settlement rate for the Eighth Judicial District may be slightly higher owing to some cases being settled after many years.

Drug Court Programs

Nevada has led the nation in the development of Drug Courts as an alternative way of returning productive members to society. Drug Courts have been proven highly effective with defendants whose drug use or abuse brought them in contact with the criminal justice system. Nevada has several Drug Courts at the District Court level.

The Adult Criminal Drug Court is the most common. Participants are part of the criminal justice system and enrolled in the program as a part of their sentence and rehabilitation. Prison Re-entry Drug Courts give prison inmates with drug problems an opportunity to get out of prison a year or two early through this program. Family, Dependency, and Child Support Drug Courts all deal with domestic situations that are worsened by those using illegal drugs. Juvenile Drug Courts are for youth that find themselves in the criminal justice system with drug use as part of the problem.

During the 2003 Legislature, a bill was passed that added a \$7 assessment to misdemeanor charges when defendants are found guilty in Justice and Municipal Courts to provide additional funding for specialty courts throughout the state. All Drug Courts are eligible for money through this source. Other specialty courts that will receive this additional funding include alcohol and mental health courts.

First, Third, & Ninth Judicial Districts

The Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program began in fiscal year 2002, and encompasses the First, Third, and Ninth Judicial Districts. The adult-only program includes cases from the District Courts in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties. Third Judicial District Court Judge Archie Blake is the primary administrator of the program. Other Third Judicial District Court judges (from Lyon and Churchill Counties) fill in as needed.

One obvious difference between the Regional Drug Court and those in Clark and Washoe Counties is that the presiding judge must travel to hear the cases in the other participating judicial districts. Most of the individual counties within the Western Region Drug Court area also have some separate form of Juvenile Drug Court.

The Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program had 64 graduates during the fiscal year. Additionally, the Drug Court had two participants who delivered drug-free babies during the fiscal year. The first drug-free baby of the newest Drug Court was born in the fall of 2002, about 1 year after the Drug Court began. This Regional Drug Court is also experiencing an 85 percent retention rate.

District Courts (cont.)

Western Nevada Drug Court, Fiscal Year 2003

| Court & County | New Admissions | Active Cases at Year End |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| First Judicial District Carson City Storey | 40 | 42 |
| Third Judicial District Churchill Lyon | 22 28 | 25 28 |
| Ninth Judicial District Douglas | 8 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 98 | 105 |

Second Judicial District

The Washoe County District Court drug program has been in operation since 1994. Judge Peter Breen and Judge Charles M. McGee handle the duties for Adult and Family Drug Courts, respectively.

One indication of the success of the Washoe County District Court Drug Court is that 21 babies were born drug-free to participants in the program during fiscal year 2003. Without this intervention, many or all of these babies would have been born with drugs in their systems with the associated risks and potential for birth defects.

Second Judicial District Drug Courts, Fiscal Year 2003

| Type of Drug Court | Participants | Graduates | Terminations |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Adult criminal | 238 | 164 | 100 |
| Prison Re-entry | 36 | 10 | 6 |
| Family | 67 | 25 | 0 |
| Juvenile | 31 | 5 | 16 |
| TOTAL | 372 | 204 | 122 |

Fifth Judicial District

The Fifth Judicial District Adult Drug Court program began operation in April 2002. Judge Robert Lane presides over the Adult and Family Drug Court programs.

The Drug Court had four drug-free babies born to participants in the program during fiscal year 2003. Another drug-free baby is expected by the end of calendar year 2003.

The Fifth Judicial District is currently in the process of implementing a Juvenile Drug Court, which is scheduled to begin in 2004. Senior Justice of the Peace Margaret Whittaker will preside over the Juvenile Drug Court under the direction of Judge Lane.

Fifth Judicial District Drug Courts, Fiscal Year 2003

| Type of Drug Court | Participants | Graduates | Terminations |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Adult criminal | 20 | 11 | 7 |
| Family | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 25 | 11 | 7 |

Eighth Judicial District

Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Jack Lehman began the first Nevada Drug Court in Clark County, in 1992; that was the fourth Drug Court in the nation at that time. In December 2000, Judge Lehman implemented the nation's First Re-entry Drug Court in Clark County. Judge Lehman retired in January 2003 leaving the Drug Court participants in the hands of his successor, Judge Jessie Walsh⁶. Others who oversee Drug Courts include Judge Dianne Steel, juvenile; Judge Gerald Hardcastle, dependency; and Hearing Master Sylvia Teuton, child support.

The Clark County District Court Drug Court program had 10 drug-free babies born to participants during fiscal year 2003.

The District Court also received an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for the Child Support Drug Court. The award is in recognition of innovative county government programs.

Eighth Judicial District Drug Courts, Fiscal Year 2003

| Type of Drug Court | New Admissions | Active Cases at Year End | Graduates | Terminations |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Adult criminal | 565 | 504 | 337 | 535 |
| Prison Re-entry | 29 | 35 | 18 | 8 |
| Dependency | 63 | 74 | 32 | 19 |
| Child Support | 14 | 34 | 7 | 16 |
| Juvenile | 105 | 126 | 40 | 24 |
| TOTAL | 776 | 773 | 434 | 602 |
| Las Vegas Justice Court | 73 | | 38 | |

⁶ Judge Lehman returned as a Senior District Judge in August 2003 to manage the Clark County Drug Court again.

Justice Courts

The Justice Courts are limited jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload is restricted to particular types of cases or actions as prescribed by the Nevada Revised Statutes. Justice Courts determine whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to be bound over to District Court for trial. They hear misdemeanor non-traffic cases as well as general civil cases (amounts up to \$7,500⁷), small claims (up to \$5,000), summary eviction cases, and requests for temporary protective orders (domestic violence or stalking and harassment). They also hear traffic and, in some communities, parking cases, which are counted by charge.

The Justices of the Peace are elected within the townships they serve (see Figure 3). They may hear cases in other townships within their county or as judges pro tempore in townships in other counties.

Statistical Summary

The Justice Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 12. Disposition summary information is included in Table 13. This is the fourth year of statistics for the courts. With 4 years of data, some trends may begin to materialize; however, increases during the early years of data collection may be affected as much by improved reporting as by true increased caseloads.

The statewide Justice Court non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases filed in fiscal year 2003 increased almost 3 percent from last year. Statewide traffic and parking violations increased more than 4 percent. Most of the misdemeanor (traffic and non-traffic) increase was realized during the last 6 months of the fiscal year. Some rural Justice Courts experienced large increases (Carlin, Elko, Lake [Love-lock], and Pahrnagat Valley Justice Courts) or decreases (Argenta [Battle Mountain], Austin, Moapa, Moapa Valley, and Verdi Justice Courts) in criminal case filings. In traffic violations, other rural Justice Courts saw large increases (Eureka, Moapa Valley, and Union [Winnemucca] Justice Courts) or decreases (Beatty, Carlin, Jackpot, Mason Valley, Pahrnagat Valley, and Tahoe Justice Courts). Much of this change can be attributed to the increase or decrease of state or local law enforcement staffing. Some areas are facing economic hardships and law enforcement officers were not replaced when the positions were vacated. In some areas, the positions have finally been filled after having been left vacant for an extended period.

As expected, the Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest criminal and traffic caseload with 59 and 54 percent (respectively) of the statewide totals. Reno Justice Court was next with more than 8 percent of the criminal and

11 percent of the traffic caseloads. Carson City Justice and Municipal Court followed with 4 percent of the traffic caseloads.

Civil filings for fiscal year 2003 increased more than 5 percent statewide from last year. One factor noted by several courts is that more public agencies and private businesses are seeking collection of debts owed through the judicial system.

Although Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest percentage of civil cases statewide (56 percent), Reno Justice Court continued to have an unusually high percentage (more than 19 percent) given the population distribution.

In November 2002, the Pahrump Justice Court staff began using the new case management system that is now going in many other Nevada courts. The Pahrump Justice Court staff was instrumental in working with the AOC and the new system staff to customize the software to Nevada courts. The court only converted old cases that had money owing into the new system, which underreported the total dispositions for the fiscal year. Throughout the report, the dispositions have been put in italics or had an ‘i’ footnote added to alert readers that something is different from previous efforts. Changes in the process have been made to minimize this underreporting in future years.

The Tecoma (Montello) and Mina Justice Courts were closed during fiscal year 2003 leaving a total of 50 Justice Courts to begin the next fiscal year.

Disposition information for Justice Courts is provided in Table 13. This is the third year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information. Many courts still count manually, some courts had their case management systems modified during the year, and some courts were unable to provide accurate information. As with many projects, the accuracy and completeness of this information will improve over time.

All disposition categories increased over last year, some owing to improved reporting and others to improved clearance rates. Dividing the disposition numbers by the filing numbers and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. A clearance rate of 90 percent or better is good. A clearance rate of more than 100 percent generally indicates the court purged many old cases.

Cases Per Judicial Position

Justice Courts present a unique problem when comparing non-traffic cases per judicial position. Many of the Justices of the Peace work part-time. Cases in Justice Courts tend to be much simpler than cases in District Courts, thus a Justice Court can handle a larger number of cases per judicial position. Traffic cases are not included in calculating the cases per judicial position. To simplify the presentation in Figure 4, only those Justice Courts with 1,000 non-traffic cases or more per judicial position are shown;

⁷ The 2003 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 100, which increases the amount of civil disputes to be heard in Justice Courts to \$10,000 effective January 2005.

Justice Courts (cont.)

Figure 3. Justices of the Peace and the Judicial Townships of Nevada as of June 30, 2003.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>LANDER COUNTY Argenta Township Judge Max Bunch Austin Township Judge Jim Andersen</p> | <p>HUMBOLDT COUNTY Gold Run Township Judge Gene Wambolt McDermitt Township Judge Howard Huttman Paradise Valley Township Judge Elizabeth Chabot Union Township Judge Gene Wambolt</p> | <p>ELKO COUNTY Carlin Township Judge Barbara Nethery East Line Township Judge Laura Grant Elko Township Judge Mary Leddy Jackpot Township Judge Phyllis Black Tecoma Township Judge Roberta Weighall Wells Township Judge Patricia Calton</p> | <p>EUREKA COUNTY Beowawe Township Judge Susan Fye Eureka Township Judge John Schwebel</p> |
| <p>WASHOE COUNTY Gerlach Township Judge Phil Thomas Incline Village Township Judge James Mancuso Reno Township Judge Harold Albright Judge Ed Dannan Judge Barbara Finley Judge Fidel Salcedo Judge Jack Schroeder Sparks Township Judge Susan Deriso Judge Kevin Higgins Verdi Township Judge Margie Clark Wadsworth Township Judge Terry Graham</p> | <p>PERSHING COUNTY Lake Township Judge Carol Nelsen</p> | <p>WHITE PINE COUNTY Ely (No. 1) Township Judge Ronald Niman Lund (No. 2) Township Judge Russel Peacock Baker (No. 3) Township Judge Valeria Taylor</p> | <p>LINCOLN COUNTY Meadow Valley Township Judge Sarah Getker Pahrnagat Valley Township Judge Nola Holton</p> |
| <p>STOREY COUNTY Virginia City Township Judge Annette Daniels</p> | | <p>CLARK COUNTY Boulder Township Judge Victor Miller Bunkerville Township Judge Cecil Leavitt Goodsprings Township Judge Dawn Haviland Henderson Township Judge Rodney Burr Judge Stephen George Las Vegas Township Judge Anthony Abbatangelo Judge Karen Bennett-Heron Judge James Bixler Judge William Jansen Judge Deborah Lippis Judge Nancy Oesterle Judge Douglas Smith Judge Ann Zimmerman</p> | |
| <p>CARSON CITY Carson City Township Judge John Tatro Judge Robey Willis</p> | <p>MINERAL COUNTY Hawthorne Township Judge Victor Trujillo Mina Township Judge Morris Fanning (resigned April 2003; court subsequently closed)</p> | <p>NYE COUNTY Beatty Township Judge Bill Sullivan Pahrump Township Judge Christina Brisebill Tonopah Township Judge Joe Maslach</p> | <p>LAUGHLIN TOWNSHIP Judge Billy Moma Mesquite Township Judge Ron Dodd Moapa Township Judge Ruth Kolhoss Moapa Valley Township Judge Lanny Waite North Las Vegas Township Judge Stephen Dahl Judge Natalie Tyrrell Searchlight Township Judge Wendell Turner</p> |
| <p>DOUGLAS COUNTY East Fork Township Judge James EnEarl Tahoe Township Judge Richard Glasson</p> | <p>ESMERALDA COUNTY Esmeralda Township Judge Juanita Colvin</p> | | |
| <p>CHURCHILL COUNTY New River Township Judge Daniel Ward</p> <p>LYON COUNTY Canal Township Judge Robert Bennett Dayton Township Judge William Rogers Mason Valley Township Judge Dennis Milligan Smith Valley Township Judge Frances Vidal</p> | | | |

Table 12. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2002-03

| | Criminal Cases Filed | | Civil Cases Filed | | Total Non-Traffic Caseload | | Traffic & Parking Violations | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City Justice Court | 2,501 | 2,521 | 4,485 | 4,504 | 6,986 | 7,025 | 16,605 | 15,624 |
| Storey County | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia City Justice Court | 151 | 127 | 83 | 100 | 234 | 227 | 1,011 | 794 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County | | | | | | | | |
| Gerlach Justice Court | 17 | 40 | 9 | 7 | 26 | 47 | 188 | 168 |
| Incline Village Justice Court | 739 | 775 | 321 | 325 | 1,060 | 1,100 | 2,324 | 1,814 |
| Reno Justice Court | 6,497 | 6,688 | 20,748 | 20,471 | 27,245 | 27,159 | 46,793 | 40,152 ^r |
| Sparks Justice Court | 2,573 | 2,721 | 4,901 | 4,788 | 7,474 | 7,509 | 8,633 | 8,497 |
| Verdi Justice Court | 73 | 100 | 19 | 23 | 92 | 123 | 1,628 | 1,923 |
| Wadsworth Justice Court | 74 | 0 | 30 | 10 | 104 | 10 | 3,187 | 2,761 |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County | | | | | | | | |
| New River Justice Court | 740 | 710 | 1,100 | 1,091 | 1,840 | 1,801 | 4,348 | 3,438 |
| Lyon County | | | | | | | | |
| Canal Justice Court | 215 | 218 | 555 | 521 | 770 | 739 | 944 | 1,113 |
| Dayton Justice Court | 728 | 670 | 728 | 657 | 1,456 | 1,327 | 3,533 | 3,353 |
| Mason Valley Justice Court | 202 | 183 | 432 | 260 | 634 | 443 | 1,722 | 2,411 |
| Smith Valley Justice Court | 25 | 17 | 19 | 21 | 44 | 38 | 363 | 288 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County | | | | | | | | |
| Carlin Justice Court | 357 | 55 | 282 | 147 | 639 | 202 | 401 | 565 |
| East Line Justice Court | 144 | 176 | 235 | 258 | 379 | 434 | 949 | 775 |
| Elko Justice Court | 1,475 | 557 | 1,661 | 1,921 | 3,136 | 2,478 | 8,693 | 9,291 |
| Jackpot Justice Court | 60 | 73 | 152 | 105 | 212 | 178 | 1,676 | 2,209 |
| Tecoma Justice Court | 1 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 277 | 333 |
| Wells Justice Court | 46 | 39 | 86 | 56 | 132 | 95 | 4,061 | 4,563 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda Justice Court | 528 | 944 | 17 | 30 | 545 | 974 | 3,014 | 3,786 |
| Mineral County | | | | | | | | |
| Hawthorne Justice Court | 631 | 408 | 139 | 285 | 770 | 693 | 5,094 | 2,677 |
| Mina Justice Court | 6 | 25 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 32 | 101 | 329 |
| Nye County | | | | | | | | |
| Beatty Justice Court | 206 | 157 | 46 | 48 | 252 | 205 | 2,666 | 3,795 |
| Pahrump Justice Court | 1,398 | 1,020 | 742 | 718 | 2,140 | 1,738 | 4,742 | 5,090 |
| Tonopah Justice Court | 167 | 129 | 109 | 128 | 276 | 257 | 2,684 | 2,873 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County | | | | | | | | |
| Gold Run Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McDermitt Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paradise Valley Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Union Justice Court | 2,332 | 1,824 | 882 | 830 | 3,214 | 2,654 | 5,264 | 3,373 |
| Lander County | | | | | | | | |
| Argenta Justice Court | 220 | 279 | 416 | 424 | 636 | 703 | 2,421 | 2,377 |
| Austin Justice Court | 21 | 42 | 3 | 11 | 24 | 53 | 1,118 | 962 |
| Pershing County | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Justice Court | 217 | 136 | 217 | 222 | 434 | 358 | 2,034 | 1,892 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County | | | | | | | | |
| Beowawe Justice Court | 19 | 24 | 6 | 9 | 25 | 33 | 678 | 637 |
| Eureka Justice Court | 38 | 17 | 6 | 21 | 44 | 38 | 1,439 | 558 |
| Lincoln County | | | | | | | | |
| Meadow Valley Justice Court | 75 | 76 | 24 | 20 | 99 | 96 | 1,855 | 1,923 |
| Pahranagat Valley Justice Court | 107 | 39 | 8 | 15 | 115 | 54 | 2,665 | 3,939 |
| White Pine County | | | | | | | | |
| Ely (No. 1) Justice Court | 136 | 165 | 449 | 444 | 585 | 609 | 3,020 | 3,272 |
| Lund (No. 2) Justice Court | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 272 | 125 |
| Baker (No. 3) Justice Court | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 27 | 39 |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County | | | | | | | | |
| Boulder Justice Court | 115 | 93 | 229 | 249 | 344 | 342 | 564 | 582 |
| Bunkerville Justice Court | 30 | 42 | 10 | 9 | 40 | 51 | 955 | 897 |
| Goodsprings Justice Court | 209 | 162 | 66 | 54 | 275 | 216 | 9,205 | 7,371 |
| Henderson Justice Court | 1,694 | 2,079 | 3,273 | 3,336 | 4,967 | 5,415 | 5,887 | 5,368 |
| Las Vegas Justice Court | 45,124 | 47,460 | 59,765 | 54,068 | 104,889 | 101,528 | 224,076 | 217,773 |
| Laughlin Justice Court | 1,385 | 1,161 | 498 | 478 | 1,883 | 1,639 | 6,953 | 6,303 |
| Mesquite Justice Court | 136 | 111 | 194 | 177 | 330 | 288 | 19 | 1 |
| Moapa Justice Court | 20 | 41 | 19 | 5 | 39 | 46 | 5,602 | 5,772 |
| Moapa Valley Justice Court | 107 | 241 ^r | 60 | 61 | 167 | 302 | 744 | 334 |
| North Las Vegas Justice Court | 2,992 | 3,139 | 2,700 | 3,286 | 5,692 | 6,425 | 1,166 | 1,245 |
| Searchlight Justice Court | 60 | 128 | 3 | 7 | 63 | 135 | 3,692 | 4,566 |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Justice Court | 798 | 702 | 668 | 681 | 1,466 | 1,383 | 8,539 | 7,334 |
| Tahoe Justice Court | 684 | 605 | 190 | 155 | 874 | 760 | 2,673 | 3,414 |
| Total | 76,078 | 76,928^r | 106,593 | 101,049 | 182,671 | 177,977 | 416,505 | 398,679^r |

^r Revised.

Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table 13. Summary of Justice Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2002-03

| | Criminal Cases Disposed | | Civil Cases Disposed | | Total Non-Traffic Cases Disposed | | Traffic & Parking Violations Disposed | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City Justice Court | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | 15,941 | 14,970 |
| Storey County | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia City Justice Court | 133 | 147 | 84 | 113 | 217 | 260 | 766 | 482 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County | | | | | | | | |
| Gerlach Justice Court | 9 | 32 | 8 | 7 | 17 | 39 | 127 | 151 |
| Incline Village Justice Court | 792 | 814 | 285 | 319 | 1,077 | 1,133 | 2,039 | 1,718 |
| Reno Justice Court | 6,801 | 4,957 | 9,367 | 7,830 | 16,168 | 12,787 | 30,104 | 35,311 |
| Sparks Justice Court | 2,343 | 2,184 | 2,843 | 2,394 | 5,186 | 4,578 | 6,541 | 5,386 |
| Verdi Justice Court | 53 | 71 | 13 | 9 | 66 | 80 | 1,732 | 1,525 |
| Wadsworth Justice Court | 68 | 0 | 25 | 4 | 93 | 4 | 2,746 | 1,068 |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County | | | | | | | | |
| New River Justice Court | 1,175 | 720 | 826 | 962 | 2,001 | 1,682 | 3,381 | 2,783 |
| Lyon County | | | | | | | | |
| Canal Justice Court | 162 | 196 | 466 | 409 | 628 | 605 | 867 | 1,283 |
| Dayton Justice Court | 995 | 551 | 399 | 479 | 1,394 | 479 | 3,358 | 2,257 |
| Mason Valley Justice Court | 246 | 239 | 556 | 217 | 802 | 456 | 1,607 | 2,046 |
| Smith Valley Justice Court | 16 | 16 | 17 | 25 | 33 | 41 | 377 | 221 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County | | | | | | | | |
| Carlin Justice Court | 297 | 180 | 125 | 48 | 422 | 228 | 323 | 499 |
| East Line Justice Court | 60 | 109 | 104 | 120 | 164 | 229 | 848 | 706 |
| Elko Justice Court | 538 | 481 | 1,309 | 507 | 1,847 | 481 | 5,546 | 5,172 |
| Jackpot Justice Court | 19 | 109 | 62 | 80 | 81 | 189 | 1,938 | 1,374 |
| Tecoma Justice Court | 3 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 274 | 265 |
| Wells Justice Court | 58 | 16 | 17 | 13 | 75 | 29 | 4,048 | 4,503 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda Justice Court | 546 | 1,050 | 16 | 14 | 562 | 1,064 | 3,059 | 2,537 |
| Mineral County | | | | | | | | |
| Hawthorne Justice Court | 89 | 141 | NR | NR | -- | -- | 3,871 | 2,264 |
| Mina Justice Court | 19 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 22 | 17 | 118 | 496 |
| Nye County | | | | | | | | |
| Beatty Justice Court | 194 | 163 | 45 | 58 | 239 | 221 | 2,672 | 3,826 |
| Pahrump Justice Court | 1,071 | 1,192 | 628 | 667 | 1,669 | 1,859 | 4,149 | 5,162 |
| Tonopah Justice Court | 150 | 170 | 88 | 85 | 238 | 255 | 1,655 | 1,303 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County | | | | | | | | |
| Gold Run Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McDermitt Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paradise Valley Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Union Justice Court | 2,323 | 2,011 | 731 | 671 | 3,054 | 2,682 | 3,772 | 2,327 |
| Lander County | | | | | | | | |
| Argenta Justice Court | 205 | 300 | 239 | 428 | 444 | 728 | 2,523 | 2,598 |
| Austin Justice Court | 18 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 10 | 969 | 847 |
| Pershing County | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Justice Court | 193 | 161 | 115 | 245 | 308 | 406 | 1,638 | 1,380 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County | | | | | | | | |
| Beowawe Justice Court | 15 | 29 | 7 | 8 | 22 | 37 | 604 | 618 |
| Eureka Justice Court | 15 | 50 | 3 | 22 | 18 | 72 | 822 | 140 |
| Lincoln County | | | | | | | | |
| Meadow Valley Justice Court | 34 | 46 | 11 | 10 | 45 | 56 | 1,381 | 1,493 |
| Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court | 63 | 31 | 2 | 9 | 65 | 40 | 2,706 | 3,623 |
| White Pine County | | | | | | | | |
| Ely (No. 1) Justice Court | 137 | 161 | 383 | 308 | 520 | 469 | 2,472 | 3,013 |
| Lund (No. 2) Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 238 | 118 |
| Baker (No. 3) Justice Court | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 30 | 39 |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County | | | | | | | | |
| Boulder Justice Court | 99 | 61 | 157 | 53 | 256 | 114 | 539 | 186 |
| Bunkerville Justice Court | 40 | 21 | 6 | 3 | 46 | 24 | 852 | 276 |
| Goodsprings Justice Court | 106 | 32 | 45 | 5 | 151 | 37 | 7,357 | 2,315 |
| Henderson Justice Court | 402 | 226 | 577 | 431 | 979 | 657 | 5,008 | 3,764 |
| Las Vegas Justice Court | NR | NR | 4,789 | 865 | -- | -- | 200,830 | 206,678 |
| Laughlin Justice Court | 1,106 | 497 | 449 | 141 | 1,555 | 638 | 5,208 | 2,282 |
| Mesquite Justice Court | 114 | 70 | 141 | 51 | 255 | 121 | 1 | 1 |
| Moapa Justice Court | 17 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 22 | 5 | 5,416 | 1,655 |
| Moapa Valley Justice Court | 185 | 228 <i>r</i> | 57 | 50 <i>r</i> | 242 | 278 | 699 | 332 <i>r</i> |
| North Las Vegas Justice Court | NR | NR | 18 | NR | -- | -- | NR | NR |
| Searchlight Justice Court | 66 | 103 | 3 | 2 | 69 | 105 | 3,973 | 1,030 |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Justice Court | 1,031 | 916 | 364 | 514 | 1,395 | 1,430 | 6,371 | 5,725 |
| Tahoe Justice Court | 675 | 723 | 150 | 88 | 825 | 811 | 2,052 | 2,708 |
| Total | 22,685 | 19,018 <i>r</i> | 25,543 | 18,233 | 48,228 | 37,251 | 353,548 | 340,771 <i>r</i> |

NR Not reported.

r Revised.

Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

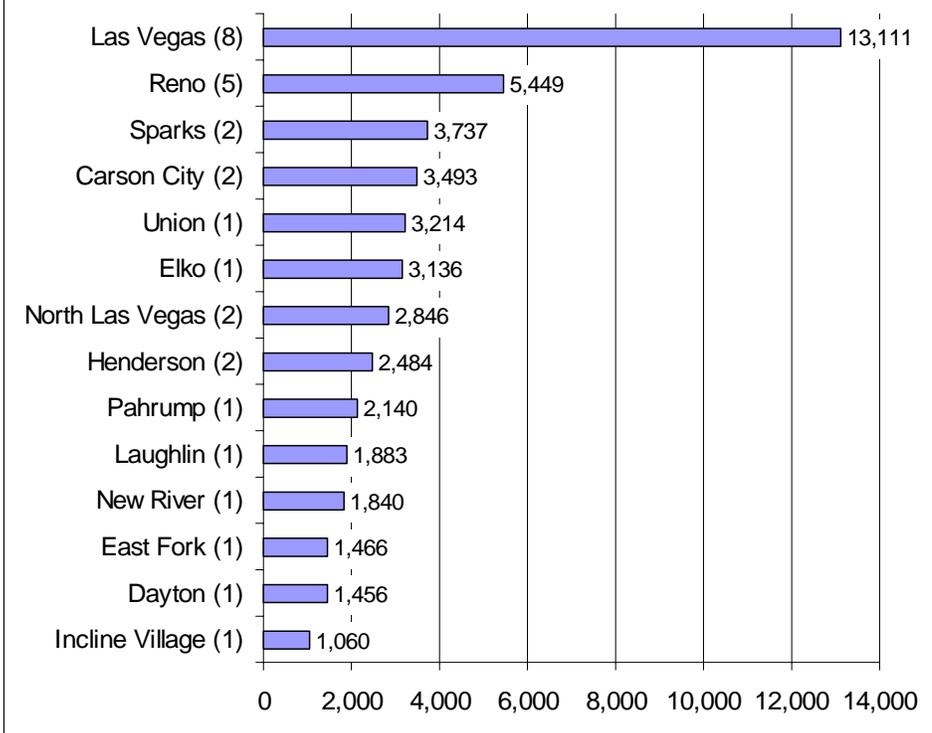
Justice Courts (cont.)

the remainder are listed in a footnote.⁸ The break at 1,000 was arbitrary. The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court is combined for the consolidated municipality and is provided in Figure 4 and Tables 12-13 with Justice Courts.

Nine of the fourteen courts shown in Figure 2 have more than 2,000 non-traffic cases per judicial position with Las Vegas having the most at 13,111. The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 2,768.

Figure 4. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Justice Court, Fiscal Year 2003.

(Number of judicial positions in parenthesis.)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 2,768 (determined by dividing statewide Justice Court non-traffic cases filed by the number of Justices of the Peace [Table A1]).

Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts have started the process of quantifying the judicial assistance provided the courts to help dispose cases. The first step was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. These are special master positions that help with the adjudication process but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Las Vegas is the only Justice Court that reported quasi-judicial positions to help with their burgeoning caseload. They had 0.65 FTE in a traffic judge and 0.05 FTE in referees who helped with traffic matters only and 0.45 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims cases. The traffic judge is a Senior Justice of the Peace whose findings are not under review by sitting judges. The other traffic and small claim referees can make recommendations or judgments that are subject to review and confirmation by sitting Justices of the Peace.

⁸ Remaining Justice Courts and their non-traffic cases per judicial position (each court has one judicial position). Asterisk indicates judicial position is part-time.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|----|
| Tahoe Justice Court | 874 | Goodsprings Justice Court | 275 | Bunkerville Justice Court | 40 |
| Canal Justice Court* | 770 | Beatty Justice Court | 252 | Moapa Justice Court* | 39 |
| Hawthorne Justice Court* | 770 | Virginia City Justice Court* | 234 | Gerlach Justice Court* | 26 |
| Carlin Justice Court* | 639 | Jackpot Justice Court* | 212 | Beowawe Justice Court* | 25 |
| Argenta Justice Court | 636 | Moapa V. Justice Court* | 167 | Austin Justice Court* | 24 |
| Mason V. Justice Court* | 634 | Wells Justice Court* | 132 | Mina Justice Court* | 11 |
| Ely (No. 1) Justice Court* | 585 | Pahranagat V. Justice Court* | 115 | Baker (No. 3) Justice Court* | 5 |
| Esmeralda Justice Court | 545 | Wadsworth Justice Court* | 104 | Tecoma Justice Court* | 3 |
| Lake Justice Court* | 434 | Meadow V. Justice Court* | 99 | Lund (No. 2) Justice Court* | 1 |
| East Line Justice Court* | 379 | Verdi Justice Court | 92 | Gold Run Justice Court* | 0 |
| Boulder Justice Court* | 344 | Searchlight Justice Court* | 63 | McDermitt Justice Court* | 0 |
| Mesquite Justice Court* | 330 | Eureka Justice Court* | 44 | Paradise V. Justice Court* | 0 |
| Tonopah Justice Court | 276 | Smith V. Justice Court* | 44 | | |

Municipal Courts

Municipal Courts are city courts and only handle cases that involve violation of city ordinances. Their jurisdiction covers the handling of traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors and, in some cities, parking. Although they generally do not handle civil cases, they have limited jurisdiction under Nevada Revised Statute 5.050.

The Municipal Court Judges are elected within the municipality they serve (see Figure 5).

Statistical Summary

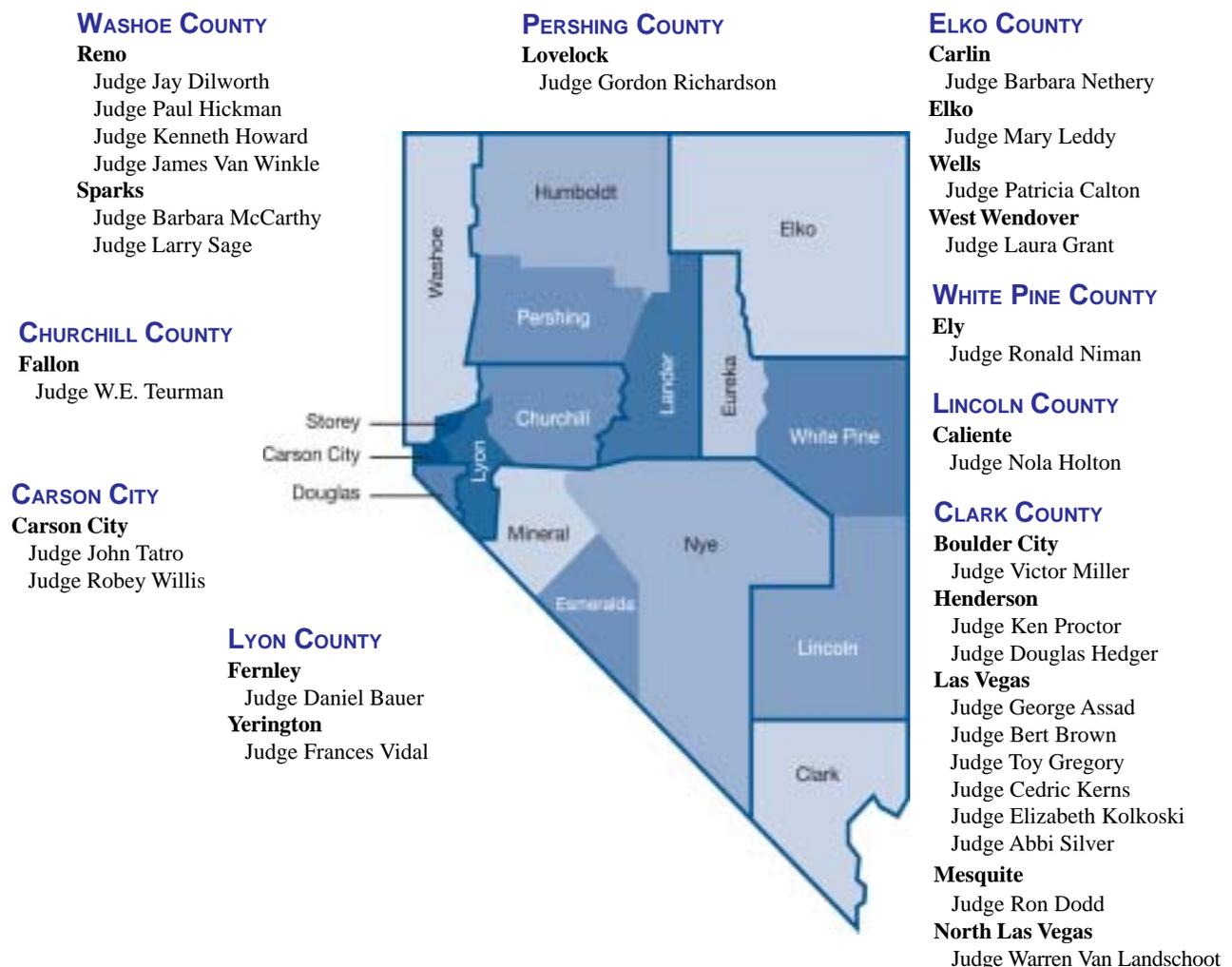
The Municipal Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14. Disposition summary information is provided in Table 15. This is the fourth year of statistics for the courts. With 4 years of data, some trends may begin to materialize; however, increases during the early years of data collection may be affected as much by improved reporting as by true increased caseloads.

Statewide Municipal Court criminal filings in fiscal year 2003 increased almost 5 percent from the year before. Statewide traffic violations were flat, increasing less than 1 percent.

Some Municipal Courts experienced large increases (Caliente, Carlin, and Mesquite) or decreases (Fallon, Reno, Sparks, and Yerington) in criminal case filings. Some Municipal Courts saw large increases (Caliente, Elko, and North Las Vegas) or decreases (Boulder, Carlin, and Sparks) in traffic and parking violations. Some of this change can be attributed to the increase or decrease of local law enforcement staffing. Some cities are facing economic hardships and law enforcement officers were not replaced when the positions were vacated.

For only the second time since data collection began in July 1999, a Municipal Court had civil filings. The Caliente Municipal Court had three small claims filings wherein the city was seeking payment through the courts

Figure 5. Municipal Court Judges and the incorporated cities of Nevada as of June 30, 2003.



Municipal Courts (cont.)

Table 14. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2002-03.

| Court | Non-Traffic Misdemeanor Defendants Charged | | Total Traffic & Parking Charges | | Civil Filings ^a | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 |
| Boulder Municipal Court | 485 | 412 | 4,426 | 5,936 | NR | 0 |
| Caliente Municipal Court | 26 | 8 | 98 | 20 | 3 | 125 |
| Carlin Municipal Court | 114 | 43 | 165 | 233 | 0 | 0 |
| Carson City Municipal Court | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) |
| Elko Municipal Court | 186 | 189 | 1,038 | 868 | NR | NR |
| Ely Municipal Court | 115 | 120 | 505 | 473 | NR | 0 |
| Fallon Municipal Court | 453 | 512 | 981 | 1,199 | 0 | 0 |
| Fernley Municipal Court | 237 | 111 | 1,934 | 2,130 | NR | NR |
| Henderson Municipal Court | 5,377 | 5,894 | 24,347 | 26,307 | NR | NR |
| Las Vegas Municipal Court | 43,593 ^c | 40,339 ^c | 130,728 | 133,725 | (d) | (d) |
| Lovelock Municipal Court | 100 | 97 | 160 | 188 | 0 | 0 |
| Mesquite Municipal Court | 601 | 398 | 2,460 | 2,909 | NR | NR |
| North Las Vegas Municipal Court | 8,796 | 6,812 | 40,557 ^f | 30,275 ^f | (d) | (d) |
| Reno Municipal Court | 7,354 | 8,423 | 20,803 | 20,387 | (d) | (d) |
| Sparks Municipal Court | 5,859 | 6,554 | 11,205 | 13,700 | NR | 0 |
| Wells Municipal Court | 38 | 40 | 198 | 179 | NR | 0 |
| West Wendover Municipal Court | 151 | 140 | 647 | 559 | NR | NR |
| Yerington Municipal Court | 120 | 150 | 302 | 306 | NR | NR |
| Total | 73,605 | 70,242 | 240,554 | 239,394 | 3 | 125 |

NR Not reported.

^a Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.

^b Municipal court data combined with justice court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^c Court report non-traffic misdemeanor numbers by charges; could not report by defendants.

^d Violations or cases are handled administratively by the city.

^f Court reported traffic and parking numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

for unpaid utility bills. This is the type of limited jurisdiction civil case a Municipal Court may handle.

The disposition information for Municipal Courts is provided in Table 15. This is the third year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information. Some courts had to count manually, some courts had their case management systems modified during the year, and some courts were unable to provide accurate information. As with many projects, the accuracy and completeness of this information will improve over time.

All disposition categories increased over last year, some owing to improved reporting and others to improved clearance rates. Dividing the disposition numbers by the filing numbers and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. Generally, a clearance rate of 90 percent or better is good; a clearance rate of more than 100 percent indicates a reduction in the backlog or the court purged many old cases. However, since some of the courts provided incomplete information, many rates cannot be accurately determined.

Municipal Courts (cont.)

Table 15. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2002-03.

| Court | Non-Traffic Misdemeanor Cases Disposed | | Traffic & Parking Violations Disposed | | Civil Cases Disposed ^a | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 | FY03 | FY02 |
| Boulder Municipal Court | 933 | 683 | 4,566 | 4,966 | NR | 0 |
| Caliente Municipal Court | 3 | 8 | 60 | 22 | 3 | NR |
| Carlin Municipal Court | 82 | 60 | 117 | 204 | 0 | 0 |
| Carson City Municipal Court | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) |
| Elko Municipal Court | 161 | 62 | 1,016 | 859 | NR | NR |
| Ely Municipal Court | 227 | 216 | 543 | 568 | NR | 0 |
| Fallon Municipal Court | 256 | 338 | 477 | 609 | 0 | 0 |
| Fernley Municipal Court | 289 | 64 | 2,055 | 1,467 | NR | NR |
| Henderson Municipal Court | 6,760 ^c | 7,234 ^c | 13,456 | 17,220 | NR | NR |
| Las Vegas Municipal Court | 39,569 | 39,986 | 125,092 | 127,533 | (d) | (d) |
| Lovelock Municipal Court | 83 | 70 | 84 | 95 | 0 | 0 |
| Mesquite Municipal Court | 731 | 410 ⁱ | 2,360 | 2,264 | NR | NR |
| North Las Vegas Municipal Court | 5,686 | 4,833 | 44,266 | 33,603 | (d) | (d) |
| Reno Municipal Court | 11,637 ^c | 12,625 ^c | 19,803 | 19,317 | (d) | (d) |
| Sparks Municipal Court | 7,243 ^e | 5,052 ^e | 12,458 ^e | 8,762 ^e | NR | 0 |
| Wells Municipal Court | 23 | 21 | 158 | 190 | NR | 0 |
| West Wendover Municipal Court | 141 | 89 | 657 | 568 | NR | NR |
| Yerington Municipal Court | 80 | 64 | 121 | 153 | NR | NR |
| Total | 73,904 | 71,815 | 227,289 | 218,400 | 3 | 0 |

NR Not reported.

^a Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.

^b Municipal court data combined with justice court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^c Dispositions are by charges, not defendants.

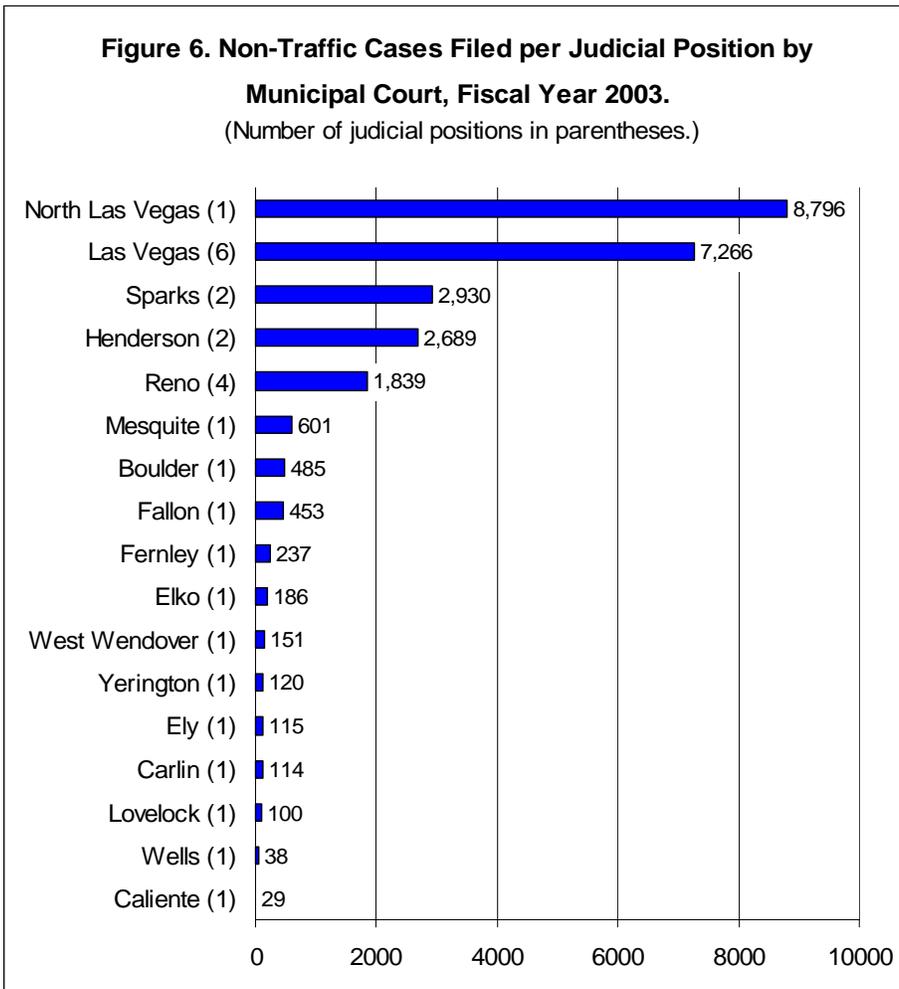
^d Violations or cases are handled administratively by the city.

^e Estimated.

ⁱ Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Municipal Courts (cont.)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 2,726 (determined by dividing statewide Municipal Court non-traffic cases filed by the number of Municipal Court judges [Table A1]).

Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is shown in Figure 6. The two Municipal Courts with the largest non-traffic caseload per judicial position are North Las Vegas and Las Vegas, with Sparks, Henderson, and Reno following in the same order as last year. The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 2,726.

The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court is combined for the consolidated municipality and is provided in Figure 4 and Tables 12-13 with Justice Courts.

Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts have started the process of counting the judicial assistance provided the courts to help dispose cases. The first step was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. These are positions that help with the adjudication process but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Municipal Court information submitted indicates no court received any judicial assistance.

Courts with Incomplete Data

The courts that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2003 are listed in Table 16, as are the specific elements of the data missing during the year.

Other tables in this report will have a footnote (*i*) indicating the data are incomplete and referring the reader here to determine what is missing. In a few instances, courts submitted all they could count, but acknowledge that there are issues with the numbers and they are working to correct them. In those instances, the data will be in italics or flagged with footnote *e*, estimated, but the court may not appear here if all monthly reports were filed.

Last fiscal year, 25 courts were unable to provide all their caseload disposition information. This year again, all courts were able to provide their caseload filing information. However, only nine courts are missing some or all of their disposition information. Reporting by the courts continues to improve and all the courts are to be commended for their efforts to meet the Uniform System for Judicial Records reporting requirements.

The disposition data requirements are harder for court staff to collect than the filing information. Many courts throughout Nevada do not have automated case management systems; court staff has to manually collect the information from each case or citation.

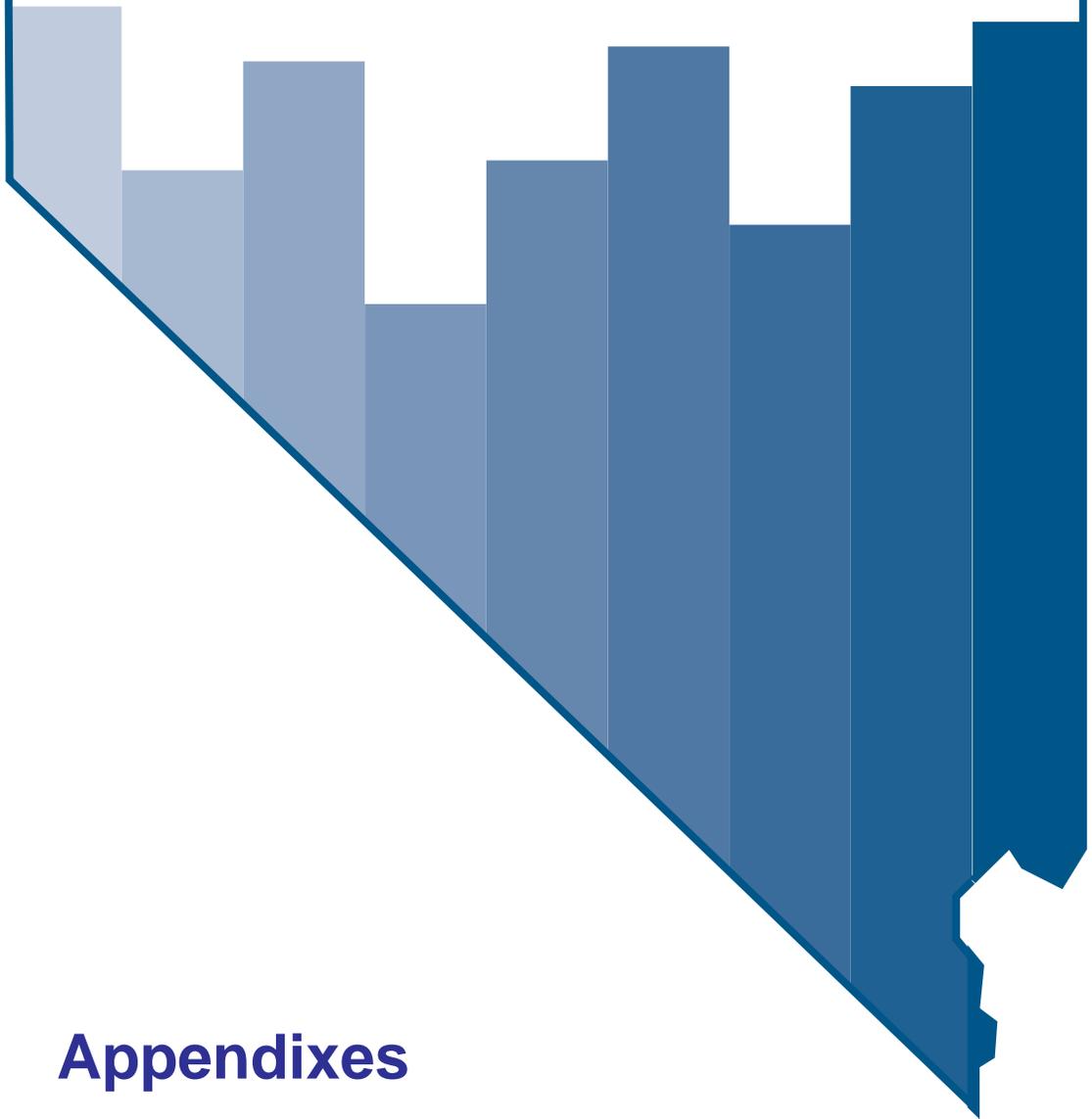
The Administrative Office of the Courts is working with the courts on technology projects that will bring case management systems to many of the rural courts and similar technology to some urban courts. This new system will provide the courts with an automated mechanism to prepare their monthly statistics reports while also improving court processes and procedures. During fiscal year 2003, Pahrump Justice Court began using the new system in its entirety, Henderson Municipal Court began using the criminal module, and all the Clark County Justice Courts began using the civil module of the new system. Several courts are scheduled to go to the new system during the next fiscal year.

Table 16. Courts with Incomplete Data

| Court | Missing Data | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| First Judicial District | | |
| Carson City Justice & Municipal Court | Criminal Disposition Data (except traffic) Civil Disposition Data | July 2002 - June 2003 July 2002 - June 2003 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | |
| Wells Justice Court | Civil Disposition Data | July 2001 - January 2002 |
| Carlin Municipal Court | Criminal Disposition Data | July 2002 - June 2003 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | |
| Hawthorne Justice Court | Criminal Disposition Data (except traffic) Civil Disposition Data | July 2002 - June 2003 July 2002 - June 2003 |
| Pahrump Justice Court | Criminal Disposition Data Civil Disposition Data | Unable to provide complete information Unable to provide complete information |
| Seventh Judicial District | | |
| White Pine County District Court | Civil Disposition Data Juvenile Disposition Data | Unable to provide complete information Unable to provide complete information |
| Eureka Justice Court | Criminal Disposition Data (partial) | July 2002 - June 2003 |
| Eighth Judicial District | | |
| Las Vegas Justice Court | Criminal Disposition Data (except traffic) | July 2002 - June 2003 |
| North Las Vegas Justice Court | Criminal Disposition Data Civil Disposition Data (except TPOs) | July 2002 - June 2003 July 2002 - June 2003 |



Uniform System for Judicial Records



Appendixes

Table A1. Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary, Fiscal Year 2003

| | Population as of 7/01/02 ^a | Authorized Judicial Positions on 6/30/03 | Criminal Cases ^b | Non- Criminal Cases ^c | Total Non- Traffic Cases | Total Non-Traffic Cases Disposed | Traffic & Parking Violations | Traffic & Parking Violations Disposed |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| First Judicial District | 58,483 | 2 | 348 | 2,777 | 3,125 | 1,893 | 1,086 | 1,039 |
| Carson City District Court | 54,844 | | 328 | 2,638 | 2,966 | 1,803 | 1,063 | 1,015 |
| Storey County District Court | 3,639 | | 20 | 139 | 159 | 90 | 23 | 24 |
| Carson City | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City Justice/Municipal Court ^d | 54,844 | 2 | 2,501 | 4,485 | 6,986 | NR | 16,605 | 15,941 |
| Storey County | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia City Justice Court | 3,639 | 1 | 151 | 83 | 234 | 217 | 1,011 | 766 |
| Second Judicial District | 359,423 | 12 | 3,033 | 19,458 | 22,491 | 17,609 | NR | NR |
| Washoe County District Court | 359,423 | | 3,033 | 19,458 | 22,491 | 17,609 | NR | NR |
| Washoe County | | | | | | | | |
| Gerlach Justice Court | 3,187 | 1 | 17 | 9 | 26 | 17 | 188 | 127 |
| Incline Village Justice Court | 10,356 | 1 | 739 | 321 | 1,060 | 1,077 | 2,324 | 2,039 |
| Reno Justice Court | 225,485 | 5 | 6,497 | 20,748 | 27,245 | 16,168 | 46,793 | 30,104 |
| Sparks Justice Court | 111,726 | 2 | 2,573 | 4,901 | 7,474 | 5,186 | 8,633 | 6,541 |
| Verdi Justice Court | 3,189 | 1 | 73 | 19 | 92 | 66 | 1,628 | 1,732 |
| Wadsworth Justice Court | 1,718 | 1 | 74 | 30 | 104 | 93 | 3,187 | 2,746 |
| Reno Municipal Court | 187,834 | 4 | 7,354 | NJ | 7,354 | 11,637 | 20,803 | 19,803 |
| Sparks Municipal Court | 75,255 | 2 | 5,859 | 0 | 5,859 | 7,243 | 11,205 | 12,458 |
| Third Judicial District | 63,893 | 3^f | 348 | 3,308 | 3,656 | 1,931 | 1,454 | 736 |
| Churchill County District Court | 25,116 | | 179 | 1,744 | 1,923 | 1,084 | 229 | 239 |
| Lyon County District Court | 38,777 | | 169 | 1,564 | 1,733 | 847 | 1,225 | 497 |
| Churchill County | | | | | | | | |
| New River Justice Court | 25,116 | 1 | 740 | 1,100 | 1,840 | 2,001 | 4,348 | 3,381 |
| Fallon Municipal Court | 8,178 | 1 | 453 | 0 | 453 | 256 | 981 | 477 |
| Lyon County | | | | | | | | |
| Canal Justice Court | 10,440 | 1 | 215 | 555 | 770 | 628 | 944 | 867 |
| Dayton Justice Court | 18,169 | 1 | 728 | 728 | 1,456 | 1,394 | 3,533 | 3,358 |
| Mason Valley Justice Court | 8,452 | 1 | 202 | 432 | 634 | 802 | 1,722 | 1,607 |
| Smith Valley Justice Court | 1,716 | 1 | 25 | 19 | 44 | 33 | 363 | 377 |
| Fernley Municipal Court | 10,440 | 1 | 237 | NR | 237 | 289 | 1,934 | 2,055 |
| Yerington Municipal Court | 2,859 | ^(g) | 120 | NR | 120 | 80 | 302 | 121 |
| Fourth Judicial District | 46,577 | 2 | 202 | 1,838 | 2,040 | 1,430 | 807 | 455 |
| Elko County District Court | 46,577 | | 202 | 1,838 | 2,040 | 1,430 | 807 | 455 |
| Elko County | | | | | | | | |
| Carlin Justice Court | 2,272 | 1 | 357 | 282 | 639 | 422 | 401 | 323 |
| East Line Justice Court | 4,661 | 1 | 144 | 235 | 379 | 164 | 949 | 848 |
| Elko Justice Court | 35,408 | 1 | 1,475 | 1,661 | 3,136 | 1,847 | 8,693 | 5,546 |
| Jackpot Justice Court | 1,230 | 1 | 60 | 152 | 212 | 81 | 1,676 | 1,938 |
| Tecoma Justice Court | 261 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 277 | 274 |
| Wells Justice Court | 2,745 | 1 | 46 | 86 | 132 | 75 | 4,061 | 4,048 |
| Carlin Municipal Court | 2,074 | ^(h) | 114 | 0 | 114 | 82 | 165 | 117 |
| Elko Municipal Court | 16,690 | ⁽ⁱ⁾ | 186 | NR | 186 | 161 | 1,038 | 1,016 |
| Wells Municipal Court | 1,389 | ^(j) | 38 | NR | 38 | 23 | 198 | 158 |
| West Wendover Municipal Court | 4,661 | ^(k) | 151 | NR | 151 | 141 | 647 | 657 |
| Fifth Judicial District | 40,859 | 2 | 294 | 2,363 | 2,657 | 1,799 | 266 | 342 |
| Esmeralda County District Court | 1,125 | | 9 | 28 | 37 | 15 | 18 | 2 |
| Mineral County District Court | 4,695 | | 31 | 187 | 218 | 146 | 15 | 13 |
| Nye County District Court | 35,039 | | 254 | 2,148 | 2,402 | 1,638 | 233 | 327 |
| Esmeralda County | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda Justice Court | 1,125 | 1 | 528 | 17 | 545 | 562 | 3,014 | 3,059 |
| Mineral County | | | | | | | | |
| Hawthorne Justice Court | 4,444 | 1 | 631 | 139 | 770 | 89 | 5,094 | 3,871 |
| Mina Justice Court | 252 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 22 | 101 | 118 |
| Nye County | | | | | | | | |
| Beatty Justice Court | 2,125 | 1 | 206 | 46 | 252 | 239 | 2,666 | 2,672 |
| Pahrump Justice Court | 28,245 | 1 | 1,398 | 742 | 2,140 | 1,699 | 4,742 | 4,149 |
| Tonopah Justice Court | 4,670 | 1 | 167 | 109 | 276 | 238 | 2,684 | 1,655 |

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

^a Source: Nevada State Demographer. "Township boundaries may not correspond to incorporated cities, and are estimated using a different method than the city/town estimates. Because of this, they will differ from city estimates."

^b Criminal cases include felony, gross misdemeanor, and non-traffic misdemeanor defendants. Traffic and parking violations are not included.

^c Non-criminal cases include civil, family, and juvenile(non-traffic) cases for District Court and civil cases for Justice and Municipal Courts.

^d Carson City is a combined county and city municipality. Two judges serve in the combined Justice/Municipal Court.

^f These judges administer the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court hearing cases assigned to the drug program from the First, Third, and Ninth Judicial Districts.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A1. Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary, Fiscal Year 2003 (cont.)

| | Population as of 7/01/02 ^a | Authorized Judicial Positions on 6/30/03 | Criminal Cases ^b | Non- Criminal Cases ^c | Total Non- Traffic Cases | Total Non-Traffic Cases Disposed | Traffic & Parking Violations | Traffic & Parking Violations Disposed |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Sixth Judicial District | 28,792 | 2 | 176 | 1,044 | 1,220 | 812 | 151 | 109 |
| Humboldt County District Court | 16,308 | | 109 | 584 | 693 | 380 | NR | NR |
| Lander County District Court | 5,547 | | 22 | 191 | 213 | 157 | 124 | 85 |
| Pershing County District Court | 6,937 | | 45 | 269 | 314 | 275 | 27 | 24 |
| Humboldt County | | | | | | | | |
| Gold Run Justice Court | 414 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McDermitt Justice Court | 1,117 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paradise Valley Justice Court | 410 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Union Justice Court | 14,366 | 1 | 2,332 | 882 | 3,214 | 3,054 | 5,264 | 3,772 |
| Lander County | | | | | | | | |
| Argenta Justice Court | 4,942 | 1 | 220 | 416 | 636 | 444 | 2,421 | 2,523 |
| Austin Justice Court | 605 | 1 | 21 | 3 | 24 | 21 | 1,118 | 969 |
| Pershing County | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Justice Court | 6,937 | 1 | 217 | 217 | 434 | 308 | 2,034 | 1,638 |
| Lovelock Municipal Court | 2,267 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 83 | 160 | 84 |
| Seventh Judicial District | 17,330 | 2 | 121 | 495 | 616 | 303 | | |
| Eureka County District Court | 1,384 | | 17 | 41 | 58 | 10 | (^g) | (^g) |
| Lincoln County District Court | 3,879 | | 26 | 130 | 156 | 105 | (^g) | (^g) |
| White Pine County District Court | 8,863 | | 78 | 324 | 402 | 188 | (^g) | (^g) |
| Eureka County | | | | | | | | |
| Beowawe Justice Court | 463 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 25 | 22 | 678 | 604 |
| Eureka Justice Court | 921 | 1 | 38 | 6 | 44 | 18 | 1,439 | 822 |
| Lincoln County | | | | | | | | |
| Meadow Valley Justice Court | 2,804 | 1 | 75 | 24 | 99 | 45 | 1,855 | 1,381 |
| Pahranagat Valley Justice Court | 1,075 | 1 | 107 | 8 | 115 | 65 | 2,665 | 2,706 |
| Caliente Municipal Court | 1,058 | (^m) | 26 | 3 | 29 | 6 | 98 | 60 |
| White Pine County | | | | | | | | |
| Ely (No. 1) Justice Court | 8,435 | 1 | 136 | 449 | 585 | 520 | 3,020 | 2,472 |
| Lund (No. 2) Justice Court | 250 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 272 | 238 |
| Baker (No. 3) Justice Court | 178 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 30 |
| Ely Municipal Court | 3,886 | (ⁿ) | 115 | NR | 115 | 227 | 505 | 543 |
| Eighth Judicial District | 1,549,657 | 33 | 7,356 | 69,780 | 77,136 | 78,064 | 1,760 | NR |
| Clark County District Court | 1,549,657 | | 7,356 | 69,780 | 77,136 | 78,064 | 1,760 | NR |
| Clark County | | | | | | | | |
| Boulder Justice Court | 15,323 | 1 | 115 | 229 | 344 | 256 | 564 | 539 |
| Bunkerville Justice Court | 1,180 | 1 | 30 | 10 | 40 | 46 | 955 | 852 |
| Goodsprings Justice Court | 3,535 | 1 | 209 | 66 | 275 | 151 | 9,205 | 7,357 |
| Henderson Justice Court | 210,353 | 2 | 1,694 | 3,273 | 4,967 | 979 | 5,887 | 5,008 |
| Las Vegas Justice Court | 1,133,145 | 8 | 45,124 | 59,765 | 104,889 | 4,789 | 224,076 | 200,830 |
| Laughlin Justice Court | 6,439 | 1 | 1,385 | 498 | 1,883 | 1,555 | 6,953 | 5,208 |
| Mesquite Justice Court | 13,309 | 1 | 136 | 194 | 330 | 255 | 19 | 1 |
| Moapa Justice Court | 1,337 | 1 | 20 | 19 | 39 | 22 | 5,602 | 5,416 |
| Moapa Valley Justice Court | 6,540 | 1 | 107 | 60 | 167 | 242 | 744 | 699 |
| North Las Vegas Justice Court | 157,034 | 2 | 2,992 | 2,700 | 5,692 | 18 | 1,166 | NR |
| Searchlight Justice Court | 1,462 | 1 | 60 | 3 | 63 | 69 | 3,692 | 3,973 |
| Boulder Municipal Court | 14,842 | (^o) | 485 | 0 | 485 | 933 | 4,426 | 4,566 |
| Henderson Municipal Court | 209,486 | 2 | 5,377 | NR | 5,377 | 6,760 | 24,347 | 13,456 |
| Las Vegas Municipal Court | 514,640 | 6 | 43,593 | NJ | 43,593 | 39,569 | 130,728 | 125,092 |
| Mesquite Municipal Court | 13,216 | (^p) | 601 | NR | 601 | 731 | 2,460 | 2,360 |
| North Las Vegas Municipal Court | 135,967 | 1 | 8,796 | NJ | 8,796 | 5,686 | 40,557 | 44,266 |
| Ninth Judicial District | 44,212 | 2 | 123 | 1,476 | 1,599 | 1,298 | 473 | 473 |
| Douglas County District Court | 44,212 | | 123 | 1,476 | 1,599 | 1,298 | 473 | 473 |
| Douglas County | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Justice Court | 37,019 | 1 | 798 | 668 | 1,466 | 1,395 | 8,539 | 6,371 |
| Tahoe Justice Court | 7,193 | 1 | 684 | 190 | 874 | 825 | 2,673 | 2,052 |
| TOTALS | 2,206,022 | | | | | | | |
| District Court Judges | | 60 | 12,001 | 102,539 | 114,540 | 105,154 | 5,997 | 3,154 |
| Justice Court Judges | | 66 | 76,078 | 106,593 | 182,671 | 48,228 | 416,505 | 353,548 |
| Municipal Court Judges | | 29 | 73,605 | 3 | 73,608 | 73,907 | 240,554 | 227,289 |

^g Smith Valley Justice Court judge also serves as Yerington Municipal Court judge.
^h Carlin Justice Court judge also serves as Carlin Municipal Court judge.
ⁱ Elko Justice Court judge also serves as Elko Municipal Court judge.
^j Wells Justice Court judge also serves as Wells Municipal Court judge.
^k East Line Justice Court judge also serves as West Wendover Municipal Court judge.
^l Justices of the peace serve as juvenile masters for all juvenile traffic cases.

^m Pahranagat Valley Justice Court judge also serves as Caliente Municipal Court judge.
ⁿ Ely Justice Court judge also serves as Ely Municipal Court judge.
^o Boulder Justice Court judge also serves as Boulder City Municipal Court judge.
^p Mesquite Justice Court judge also serves as Mesquite Municipal Court judge.

Table A2. Criminal Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2003

| | <u>Criminal Defendants Charged</u> | | Criminal Appeals from Lower Court | Total Cases Filed | Total Cases Disposed |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Felony | Gross Misdemeanor | | | |
| First Judicial District | | | | | |
| Carson City District Court | 269 | 22 | 37 | 328 | 330 |
| Storey County District Court | 16 | 4 | 0 | 20 | 9 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | |
| Washoe County District Court | 2,233 | 747 | 53 | 3,033 | 2,659 |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | |
| Churchill County District Court | 144 | 35 | 0 | 179 | 125 |
| Lyon County District Court | 145 | 22 | 2 | 169 | 170 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | |
| Elko County District Court | 180 | 12 | 10 | 202 | 274 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County District Court | 6 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| Mineral County District Court | 21 | 10 | 0 | 31 | 30 |
| Nye County District Court | 241 | 13 | 0 | 254 | 233 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | |
| Humboldt County District Court | 82 | 17 | 10 | 109 | 109 |
| Lander County District Court | 16 | 6 | 0 | 22 | 17 |
| Pershing County District Court | 40 | 1 | 4 | 45 | 47 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | |
| Eureka County District Court | 11 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 7 |
| Lincoln County District Court | 18 | 2 | 6 | 26 | 19 |
| White Pine County District Court | 66 | 8 | 4 | 78 | 58 |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | |
| Clark County District Court | 6,058 ^a | 1,192 ^a | 106 | 7,356 | 14,859 |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | |
| Douglas County District Court | 111 | 10 | 2 | 123 | 107 |
| Total | 9,657 | 2,107 | 237 | 12,001 | 19,059 |

^a Data are by cases instead of defendants.
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A3. Civil Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2003

| | <u>New Civil Cases Filed</u> | | | | | | Reopened Cases | Total Civil Cases | Total Cases Disposed |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Real Property | Construction Defect | Torts - Negligence | Torts | Probate | Other | | | |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City District Court | 27 | 1 | 145 | 15 | 113 | 374 | 0 | 675 | 424 |
| Storey County District Court | 7 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 29 | 14 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County District Court | 345 | 13 | 1,018 | 250 | 586 | 1,727 | 458 | 4,397 | 2,971 |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County District Court | 5 | 0 | 20 | 14 | 46 | 29 | 0 | 114 | 103 |
| Lyon County District Court | 27 | 4 | 18 | 1 | 78 | 80 | 32 | 240 | 73 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County District Court | 18 | 0 | 68 | 10 | 95 | 185 | 104 | 480 | 169 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County District Court | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 7 |
| Mineral County District Court | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 17 | 0 | 37 | 17 |
| Nye County District Court | 27 | 1 | 21 | 7 | 134 | 97 | 0 | 287 | 152 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County District Court | 4 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 41 | 55 | 0 | 115 | 36 |
| Lander County District Court | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 19 | 1 | 39 | 22 |
| Pershing County District Court | 2 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 1 | 70 | 32 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County District Court | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 28 | 1 ⁱ |
| Lincoln County District Court | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 15 | 0 | 40 | 28 |
| White Pine County District Court | 2 | 1 | 28 | 15 | 36 | 18 | 0 | 100 | 2 ⁱ |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County District Court | 858 | 52 | 5,425 | 659 | 2,289 | 10,270 | 1,446 | 20,999 | 18,438 |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County District Court | 18 | 1 | 49 | 11 | 88 | 238 | 5 | 410 | 282 |
| Total | 1,362 | 74 | 6,826 | 1,006 | 3,598 | 13,164 | 2,047 | 28,077 | 22,771 |

ⁱ Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A4. Family Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2003

| | New Family Related Cases Filed | | | | | | | | | | Request for Domestic Violence Protective Orders (TPOs) | Re-opened Cases | Total Family Cases | Total Cases Disposed |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Marriage Dis-solution | Support/Custody | Uniform Interstate Family Support Act | Adop-tions | Pater-nity | Termina-tion of Parental Rights | Miscel-laneous Domestic Relations | Guardian-ship | Mental Health Case | | | | | |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City District Court | 479 | 12 | 197 | 18 | 9 | 19 | 33 | 108 | 21 | 1 | NR | 897 | 796 | |
| Storey County District Court | 60 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 81 | 57 | |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County District Court | 3,119 | 180 | 1,675 | 166 | 78 | 174 | 283 | 517 | 395 | 1,773 | 1,502 | 9,862 | 9,837 | |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County District Court | 286 | 6 | 180 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 4 | 18 | 0 | 0 | NR | 530 | 565 | |
| Lyon County District Court | 96 | 6 | 270 | 10 | 3 | 17 | 20 | 54 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 480 | 166 | |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County District Court | 251 | 62 | 204 | 24 | 11 | 18 | 16 | 43 | 0 | 172 | 45 | 846 | 739 | |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County District Court | 2 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | |
| Mineral County District Court | 14 | 1 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 97 | 38 | |
| Nye County District Court | 565 | 25 | 350 | 12 | 5 | 16 | 10 | 30 | 0 | 0 | NR | 1,013 | 732 | |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County District Court | 111 | 7 | 139 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 297 | 214 | |
| Lander County District Court | 25 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 58 | 43 | |
| Pershing County District Court | 31 | 2 | 36 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 85 | 133 | |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County District Court | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | |
| Lincoln County District Court | 12 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 38 | 29 | |
| White Pine County District Court | 64 | 0 | 50 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 133 | 143 | |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County District Court | 13,187 | 1,038 | 5,940 | 483 | 305 | 484 | 697 | 1,313 | 760 | 8,069 | 4,809 | 37,085 | 37,275 | |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County District Court | 535 | 14 | 64 | 25 | 17 | 15 | 18 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 737 | 656 | |
| Total | 18,842 | 1,361 | 9,202 | 768 | 439 | 775 | 1,106 | 2,165 | 1,177 | 10,016 | 6,407 | 52,258 | 51,426 | |

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A5. Juvenile Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2003

| | Criminal type | | Child Abuse/Neglect | | Miscel-laneous | Informal Hearings | Detention/ Extradition Hearings | Protective Custody Hearings | Total Non-Traffic Cases | | Traffic Violations | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | Juvenile Petitions | Status Petitions | Petitions | Petitions | | | | | Filed | Disposed | Filed | Disposed |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City District Court | 131 | 23 | 18 | 293 | 293 | 290 | 18 | 1,066 | 253 | 1,063 | 1,015 | |
| Storey County District Court | 9 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 29 | 10 | 23 | 24 | |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County District Court | 2,080 | NR | 423 | 66 | 2,268 | NR | 362 | 5,199 | 2,142 | NR | NR | |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County District Court | 210 | 31 | 12 | 51 | 728 | 53 | 15 | 1,100 | 291 | 229 ^a | 239 | |
| Lyon County District Court | 457 | 46 | 13 | 0 | 198 | 111 | 19 | 844 | 438 | 1,225 | 497 | |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County District Court | 287 | 0 | 13 | 33 | 89 | 52 | 38 | 512 | 248 | 807 | 455 | |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County District Court | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 2 | |
| Mineral County District Court | 21 | 18 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 61 | 15 | 13 | |
| Nye County District Court | 301 | 148 | 32 | 0 | 225 | 142 | 0 | 848 | 521 | 233 ^a | 327 | |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County District Court | 169 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 172 | 21 | NR | NR | |
| Lander County District Court | 43 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 23 | 5 | 94 | 75 | 124 | 85 | |
| Pershing County District Court | 67 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 19 | 0 | 3 | 114 | 63 | 27 | 24 | |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County District Court | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | (b) | (b) | |
| Lincoln County District Court | 27 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 52 | 29 | (b) | (b) | |
| White Pine County District Court | 90 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91 | 0 ⁱ | (b) | (b) | |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County District Court | 8,046 | 0 | 769 | 90 | 1 | 1,374 | 1,416 | 11,696 | 7,492 | 1,760 | NR | |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County District Court | 224 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 80 | 12 | 329 | 253 | 473 | 473 | |
| Total | 12,167 | 276 | 1,313 | 562 | 3,847 | 2,141 | 1,898 | 22,204 | 11,898 | 5,997 | 3,154 | |

NR Not reported

^a Traffic are by defendants, not charges.

^b Juvenile traffic violations handled by Justice Courts.

ⁱ Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A6. Criminal Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2003

| | Criminal Defendants Charged | | | | | Charges | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | Felony | Gross Misdemeanor | Misdemeanor, Non-traffic | Total Filed | Total Disposed | Juvenile Traffic | Traffic Violations | Parking Violations | Total Filed | Total Disposed |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City Justice Court | 757 | 85 | 1,659 ^a | 2,501 | NR | NJ | 16,466 ^a | 139 ^a | 16,605 ^a | 15,941 ^e |
| Storey County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia City Justice Court | 32 | 6 | 113 | 151 | 133 | NJ | 988 | 23 | 1,011 | 766 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gerlach Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 17 | 17 | 9 | NJ | 188 | 0 | 188 | 127 |
| Incline Village Justice Court | 36 | 16 | 687 | 739 | 792 | 89 | 1,903 | 332 | 2,324 | 2,039 |
| Reno Justice Court | 2,745 | 236 | 3,516 | 6,497 | 6,801 | NJ | 46,793 | NJ | 46,793 | 30,104 |
| Sparks Justice Court | 1,114 | 165 | 1,294 | 2,573 | 2,343 | NJ | 8,633 | NJ | 8,633 | 6,541 |
| Verdi Justice Court | 29 | 0 | 44 | 73 | 53 | NJ | 1,615 | 13 | 1,628 | 1,732 |
| Wadsworth Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 74 | 74 | 68 | NJ | 3,187 | 0 | 3,187 | 2,746 |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County | | | | | | | | | | |
| New River Justice Court | 309 | 54 | 377 | 740 | 1,175 | NJ | 4,348 | 0 | 4,348 | 3,381 |
| Lyon County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canal Justice Court | 115 | 14 | 86 | 215 | 162 | NJ | 944 | 0 | 944 | 867 |
| Dayton Justice Court | 144 | 8 | 576 | 728 | 995 | NJ | 3,533 | 0 | 3,533 | 3,358 |
| Mason Valley Justice Court | 72 | 13 | 117 | 202 | 246 | NJ | 1,722 | 0 | 1,722 | 1,607 |
| Smith Valley Justice Court | 2 | 2 | 21 | 25 | 16 | NJ | 363 | 0 | 363 | 377 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carlin Justice Court | 1 | 0 | 356 | 357 | 297 | NJ | 401 | 0 | 401 | 323 |
| East Line Justice Court | NR | NR | 144 | 144 | 60 | NJ | 949 | NR | 949 | 848 |
| Elko Justice Court | 183 | 22 | 1,270 | 1,475 | 538 | NJ | 8,692 | 1 | 8,693 | 5,546 |
| Jackpot Justice Court | 5 | 9 | 46 | 60 | 19 | NJ | 1,664 | 12 | 1,676 | 1,938 |
| Tecoma Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | NJ | 277 | 0 | 277 | 274 |
| Wells Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 46 | 46 | 58 | NJ | 4,061 | 0 | 4,061 | 4,048 |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda Justice Court | 29 | 9 | 490 | 528 | 546 | NJ | 3,013 | 1 | 3,014 | 3,059 |
| Mineral County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawthorne Justice Court | 217 | 21 | 393 | 631 | 89 ⁱ | NJ | 5,094 ^b | 0 | 5,094 ^b | 3,871 ^b |
| Mina Justice Court | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 19 | NJ | 101 | 0 | 101 | 118 |
| Nye County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beatty Justice Court | 43 | 5 | 158 | 206 | 194 | NJ | 2,666 | 0 | 2,666 | 2,672 |
| Pahrump Justice Court | 419 | 60 | 919 | 1,398 | 1,071 ⁱ | NJ | 4,707 | 35 | 4,742 | 4,149 ⁱ |
| Tonopah Justice Court | 65 | 9 | 93 | 167 | 150 | NJ | 2,683 | 1 | 2,684 | 1,655 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gold Run Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NJ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McDermitt Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NJ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paradise Valley Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NJ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Union Justice Court | 171 | 12 | 2,149 | 2,332 | 2,323 | NJ | 5,154 | 110 | 5,264 | 3,772 |
| Lander County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Argenta Justice Court | 31 | 3 | 186 | 220 | 205 | NJ | 2,421 | 0 | 2,421 | 2,523 |
| Austin Justice Court | 1 | 1 | 19 | 21 | 18 | NJ | 1,117 | 1 | 1,118 | 969 |
| Pershing County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Justice Court | 66 | 6 | 145 | 217 | 193 | NJ | 2,034 | 0 | 2,034 | 1,638 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beowawe Justice Court | 6 | 1 | 12 | 19 | 15 | 4 | 674 | 0 | 678 | 604 |
| Eureka Justice Court | 8 | 6 | 24 | 38 | 15 | 8 | 1,431 | 0 | 1,439 | 822 |
| Lincoln County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Meadow Valley Justice Court | 25 | 5 | 45 | 75 | 34 | 27 | 1,828 | 0 | 1,855 | 1,381 |
| Pahranagat Valley Justice Court | 5 | 0 | 102 | 107 | 63 | 27 | 2,638 | 0 | 2,665 | 2,706 |
| White Pine County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ely (No. 1) Justice Court | 72 | 11 | 53 | 136 | 137 | 157 | 2,863 | 0 | 3,020 | 2,472 |
| Lund (No. 2) Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 272 | 0 | 272 | 238 |
| Baker (No. 3) Justice Court | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 27 | 30 |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boulder Justice Court | 77 | 11 | 27 | 115 | 99 | 16 | 546 | 2 | 564 | 539 |
| Bunkerville Justice Court | 14 | 0 | 16 | 30 | 40 | 51 | 897 | 7 | 955 | 852 |
| Goodsprings Justice Court | 143 | 2 | 64 | 209 | 106 | 0 | 9,205 | 0 | 9,205 | 7,357 |
| Henderson Justice Court | 1,261 | 133 | 300 | 1,694 | 402 ⁱ | 120 | 5,740 | 27 | 5,887 | 5,008 |
| Las Vegas Justice Court | 17,844 | 1,158 | 26,122 | 45,124 | NR | 5,808 | 212,715 | 5,553 | 224,076 | 200,830 ^e |
| Laughlin Justice Court | 526 | 23 | 836 | 1,385 | 1,106 | 90 | 6,192 | 671 | 6,953 | 5,208 |
| Mesquite Justice Court | 100 | 4 | 32 | 136 | 114 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 19 | 1 |
| Moapa Justice Court | 12 | 1 | 7 | 20 | 17 | 110 | 5,492 | 0 | 5,602 | 5,416 |
| Moapa Valley Justice Court | 10 | 12 | 85 | 107 | 185 | NR | 665 | 79 | 744 | 699 |
| North Las Vegas Justice Court | 1,660 | 112 | 1,220 | 2,992 | NR | 28 | 1,138 | 0 | 1,166 | NR |
| Searchlight Justice Court | 14 | 10 | 36 | 60 | 66 | 36 | 3,237 | 419 | 3,692 | 3,973 |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County | | | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Justice Court | 202 | 27 | 569 | 798 | 1,031 | NJ | 8,358 | 181 | 8,539 | 6,371 |
| Tahoe Justice Court | 177 | 8 | 499 | 684 | 675 | NJ | 2,545 | 128 | 2,673 | 2,052 |
| Total | 28,744 | 2,283 | 45,051 | 76,078 | 22,685 | 6,571 | 402,199 | 7,735 | 416,505 | 353,548 |

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

^a Municipal Court data included in totals.

^b Court reported traffic numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

^e Estimated.

ⁱ Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A7. Civil Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2003

| | Civil Cases Filed | | | | | Reopened Cases | Total Civil Cases | Total Cases Disposed |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | General Civil | Small Claims | Summary Eviction | Request for Domestic Violence Protective Orders (TPOs) | Request for Protection Orders(non-domestic violence) | | | |
| First Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City | | | | | | | | |
| Carson City Justice Court | 1,587 | 528 | 1,293 | 622 | 455 | NR | 4,485 | NR |
| Storey County | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia City Justice Court | 5 | 17 | 24 | 25 | 11 | 1 | 83 | 84 |
| Second Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Washoe County | | | | | | | | |
| Gerlach Justice Court | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 8 |
| Incline Village Justice Court | 43 | 132 | 91 | 21 | 30 | 4 | 321 | 285 |
| Reno Justice Court | 8,276 | 3,542 | 8,410 | (a) | 520 | 0 | 20,748 | 9,367 |
| Sparks Justice Court | 794 | 1,644 | 2,376 | (a) | 87 | 0 | 4,901 | 2,843 |
| Verdi Justice Court | 2 | 11 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 13 |
| Wadsworth Justice Court | 2 | 6 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 25 |
| Third Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Churchill County | | | | | | | | |
| New River Justice Court | 239 | 341 | 271 | 168 | 53 | 28 | 1,100 | 826 |
| Lyon County | | | | | | | | |
| Canal Justice Court | 59 | 233 | 161 | 99 | 3 | 0 | 555 | 466 |
| Dayton Justice Court | 92 | 155 | 282 | 113 | 81 | 5 | 728 | 399 |
| Mason Valley Justice Court | 68 | 277 | 21 | 54 | 10 | 2 | 432 | 556 |
| Smith Valley Justice Court | 2 | 13 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 17 |
| Fourth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Elko County | | | | | | | | |
| Carlin Justice Court | 26 | 244 | 12 | (a) | (a) | 0 | 282 | 125 |
| East Line Justice Court | 43 | 134 | 27 | 18 | 13 | NR | 235 | 104 |
| Elko Justice Court | 866 | 645 | 109 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 1,661 | 1,309 |
| Jackpot Justice Court | 43 | 84 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 152 | 62 |
| Tecoma Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Wells Justice Court | 14 | 54 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 86 | 17 i |
| Fifth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda County | | | | | | | | |
| Esmeralda Justice Court | 0 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 16 |
| Mineral County | | | | | | | | |
| Hawthorne Justice Court | 24 | 81 | 24 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 139 | NR |
| Mina Justice Court | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Nye County | | | | | | | | |
| Beatty Justice Court | 4 | 18 | 0 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 46 | 45 |
| Pahrump Justice Court | 83 | 203 | 169 | 271 | 13 | 3 | 742 | 628 i |
| Tonopah Justice Court | 28 | 44 | 13 | 19 | 5 | 0 | 109 | 88 |
| Sixth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt County | | | | | | | | |
| Gold Run Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McDermitt Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paradise Valley Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Union Justice Court | 240 | 454 | 34 | 89 | 65 | 0 | 882 | 731 |
| Lander County | | | | | | | | |
| Argenta Justice Court | 52 | 339 | 3 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 416 | 239 |
| Austin Justice Court | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Pershing County | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Justice Court | 18 | 119 | 49 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 217 | 115 |
| Seventh Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka County | | | | | | | | |
| Beowawe Justice Court | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 7 |
| Eureka Justice Court | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| Lincoln County | | | | | | | | |
| Meadow Valley Justice Court | 1 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 11 |
| Pahrangat Valley Justice Court | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 |
| White Pine County | | | | | | | | |
| Ely (No. 1) Justice Court | 182 | 137 | 57 | 54 | 18 | 1 | 449 | 383 |
| Lund (No. 2) Justice Court | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Baker (No. 3) Justice Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eighth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Clark County | | | | | | | | |
| Boulder Justice Court | 28 | 49 | 67 | 46 | 39 | 0 | 229 | 157 |
| Bunkerville Justice Court | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Goodsprings Justice Court | 4 | 22 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 3 | 66 | 45 |
| Henderson Justice Court | 288 | 891 | 1,908 | (a) | 186 | NR | 3,273 | 577 i |
| Las Vegas Justice Court | 26,497 | 9,426 | 22,238 | (a) | 1,462 | 142 | 59,765 | 4,789 i |
| Laughlin Justice Court | 22 | 379 | 53 | 20 | 24 | 0 | 498 | 449 |
| Mesquite Justice Court | 13 | 122 | 16 | 26 | 17 | 0 | 194 | 141 |
| Moapa Justice Court | 2 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 5 |
| Moapa Valley Justice Court | 2 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 30 | 0 | 60 | 57 |
| North Las Vegas Justice Court | 199 | 877 | 1,580 | (a) | 44 | NR | 2,700 | 18 i |
| Searchlight Justice Court | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Ninth Judicial District | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas County | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Justice Court | 139 | 275 | 89 | 85 | 80 | 0 | 668 | 364 |
| Tahoe Justice Court | 50 | 64 | 19 | 23 | 6 | 28 | 190 | 150 |
| Total | 40,042 | 21,621 | 39,456 | 1,908 | 3,341 | 225 | 106,593 | 25,543 |

NR Not reported.

a Temporary protective orders are processed and recorded at the District Court level.

i Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A8. Municipal Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Year 2003

| | Defendants Charged | | Charges | | Total Traffic and Parking | Civil Filings ^a |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic | Traffic Violations | Juvenile Traffic | Parking Violations | | |
| Boulder Municipal Court | 485 | 4,178 | 183 | 65 | 4,426 | NR |
| Caliente Municipal Court | 26 | 98 | NJ | 0 | 98 | 3 |
| Carlin Municipal Court | 114 | 164 | NJ | 1 | 165 | 0 |
| Carson City Municipal Court | (b) | (b) | NJ | (b) | (b) | (b) |
| Elko Municipal Court | 186 | 1,015 | NJ | 23 | 1,038 | NR |
| Ely Municipal Court | 115 | 497 | NJ | 8 | 505 | NR |
| Fallon Municipal Court | 453 | 971 | NJ | 10 | 981 | 0 |
| Fernley Municipal Court | 237 | 1,934 | NJ | 0 | 1,934 | NR |
| Henderson Municipal Court | 5,377 | 20,053 | 1,953 | 2,341 | 24,347 | NR |
| Las Vegas Municipal Court | 43,593 ^c | 130,728 | NJ | (d) | 130,728 | (d) |
| Lovelock Municipal Court | 100 | 160 | NJ | 0 | 160 | 0 |
| Mesquite Municipal Court | 601 | 2,368 | NJ | 92 | 2,460 | NR |
| North Las Vegas Municipal Court | 8,796 | 36,921 ^f | NJ | 3,636 | 40,557 ^f | (d) |
| Reno Municipal Court | 7,354 | 20,803 | NJ | (d) | 20,803 | (d) |
| Sparks Municipal Court | 5,859 | 9,344 | NJ | 1,861 | 11,205 | NR |
| Wells Municipal Court | 38 | 198 | NJ | 0 | 198 | NR |
| West Wendover Municipal Court | 151 | 622 | NJ | 25 | 647 | NR |
| Yerington Municipal Court | 120 | 290 | NJ | 12 | 302 | NR |
| Total | 73,605 | 230,344 | 2,136 | 8,074 | 240,554 | 3 |

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

^a This is only the second year that any Municipal Court has had any civil filings since the project began.

^b Municipal court data combined with justice court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^c Court reported non-traffic misdemeanor numbers by charges; could not report by defendants.

^d Violations or cases are handled administratively by the city.

^f Court reported traffic and parking numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Glossary of Case Types

CRIMINAL CASE TYPES

When to Count Filings: Cases are counted by defendants in District Court when the court receives notification of a bind over from a lower court or receives the formal charging document from the District Attorney's Office. Felony and gross misdemeanor filings in Justice Court are counted by defendants when the court receives the formal charging document, generally a complaint or citation from the District Attorney's Office or law enforcement agency. Misdemeanor and traffic filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are counted when the court receives the citation or complaint. Misdemeanors are counted by defendants and traffic violations are counted by charges.

Felony – Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of a state law that is punishable by death or imprisonment in the state prison.

Gross Misdemeanor – Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of state law that involves an offense that does not fit within the definitions of felony, misdemeanor, or traffic case.

Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for defendants charged with the violation of a state law or local ordinance that involves an offense punishable by fine or incarceration or both for no more than \$1,000 or 6 months, respectively.

Misdemeanor, Traffic – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for moving and non-moving violations of traffic law or ordinance that do not pertain to parking of a motor vehicle. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

Parking Violations – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for parking of a motor vehicle in violation of a traffic law or ordinance. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

Appeal from Lower Court – Cases heard at District Court in which the court reviews the judgment of a Justice or Municipal Court for a criminal case.

When to Count Dispositions: A criminal case is considered disposed when final adjudication for that case occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as date of sentencing, date of adjudication, or date charges are disposed, whichever occurs last.

Criminal Cases Disposed – For District Court, cases are disposed when transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion or before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, jury trial, and other manner of disposition. For Justice and Municipal Courts, cases are dismissed before or during preliminary hearing, guilty plea before or during preliminary hearing, waiver of preliminary hearing, bound over to District Court, bail forfeiture, transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion, dismissed before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, and jury trial.

CIVIL CASE TYPES

When to Count Filings: Cases are counted when a petition or complaint is filed with the court or the court receives a motion and a court case number is assigned.

Real Property – Cases heard at District Court that deal with ownership or rights in real property excluding construction defect or negligence; includes landlord and tenant disputes, title to property, condemnation, eminent domain, and other real property cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

Construction Defect – Cases heard at District Court that deal with alleged defects in construction.

Negligence Torts – Cases heard at District Court that deal with an alleged omission to perform an act or use care to perform an act that causes personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death; includes auto, medical/dental, premises liability, and other negligence tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

Torts – Cases heard at District Court that deal with an alleged injury or wrong committed either against a person or person's property by a party who either did or did not do something they were not or were supposed to do; includes product liability, intentional misconduct, employment, and other tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

Probate – Cases heard at District Court that deal with the probate of a will or estate of a deceased person; includes summary administration, general administration, special administration, set asides, probate trusts, and other probate cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

Other Civil – Cases heard at District Court that include breach of contract, civil petition for judicial review, appeals from lower courts, civil writs, and all other civil matters that do not fit in one of the above categories or case types.

General Civil – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money or damages where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$7,500.

Small Claims – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$5,000.

Summary Eviction – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with the exclusion of tenant for default of rent or specific categories of unlawful detainer.

Temporary Protective Orders – Cases heard at Justice Court for temporary order for protection. TPOs are counted as either domestic violence protective orders or stalking and harassment protective orders.

When to Count Dispositions: A civil case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as the date judgment is entered.

Civil Cases Disposed – For all trial courts, civil cases are disposed by voluntary dismissal, transfer before or during trial, involuntary dismissal, judgment on arbitration award, stipulated dismissal, stipulated judgment, default judgment, and adjudication on the merits by motion to dismiss, summary judgment, bench trial, and jury trial. Additionally, in Justice Courts, temporary protective orders are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transferred before or during trial, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial or hearing, decision with hearing, and decision with trial.

FAMILY CASE TYPES

When to Count Filings: Cases are counted when the court receives an originating petition, request, or complaint.

Marriage Dissolution – Cases heard at District Court that involve either divorce or annulment.

Support/Custody – Cases heard at District Court that request maintenance of a spouse or child or a determination with regard to control, care, or maintenance of a child. Both parties must reside in Nevada.

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act – Cases heard at District Court that require maintenance of a spouse or child when one party resides in another state.

Adoptions – Cases heard at District Court that involve a request for the establishment of a new, permanent relationship of parent and child between persons not having that relationship naturally.

Paternity – Cases heard at District Court that involve paternity issues as defined by Nevada statute.

Termination of Parental Rights – Cases heard at District Court that involve termination of parental rights.

Miscellaneous Domestic Relations Case – Cases heard at District Court that involve a domestic relations issue that does not fit in one of the other family case types. Examples include name change or permission to marry.

Guardianship – Cases heard at District Court that deal with guardianship issues involving adults, minors, or trusts.

Mental Health Cases – Cases heard at District Court that deal with legal determination as to whether an individual is mentally ill or incompetent and should be placed or remain under care, custody, or treatment.

Domestic Violence Protective Orders – Cases heard at District Court for temporary order for protection when sufficient evidence exists that there has been domestic violence or the threat exists.

When to Count Dispositions: A family case is considered disposed when the decision is handed down and/or the final order is filed, whichever occurs first.

Family Cases Disposed – For District Courts, family cases are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transfer, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial, decision with hearing, and decision with trial. Additionally, guardianship cases can be disposed for a person by death, reaching the age of majority, or restoration of competency; and for property by an order terminating guardianship or final accounting.

JUVENILE CASE TYPES

When to Count Filings: Cases are counted when the court receives the petition or citation.

Criminal-Type Juvenile Petitions – Cases heard at District Court that include a behavior that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

Status Petitions – Cases heard at District Court that includes petitions involving a juvenile in need of supervision. The juvenile may require guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation because of habitual truancy, habitual disobedience, being ungovernable, or behavior that is injurious or dangerous to others.

Child Abuse/Neglect Petitions – Cases heard at District Court where the behavior of someone other than the juvenile causes the court to concern itself with the well being of the juvenile. Adults charged with abuse or neglect are counted in the appropriate criminal category.

Miscellaneous Petitions – Cases heard at District Court that involve juvenile cases that do not fit in one of the other juvenile categories. An example is Petition for Emancipation.

Informal Hearing – Any hearing by a judicial officer in which no formal charge has been filed with the court.

Detention/Extradition Hearing – Any hearing requesting a juvenile to be held in detention, or continued to be held in detention, pending further court action within the same or another jurisdiction.

Protective Custody Hearing – Any hearing held to determine if the risk to a child is great enough to warrant removal, or continued removal, from their custodian.

When to Count Dispositions: A juvenile case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs.

Juvenile Cases Disposed – For District Courts, juvenile cases are disposed by transfer, certification to adult, dismissal, plea or admission, statutory termination, wardship termination, judgment satisfied, and bench trial.